

Mr Mugabe planning broadly based government of national unity

Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister-Designate, said yesterday that together with Mr Joshua Nkomo he would form a broadly based

Government of Zimbabwe. In the interests of national reconciliation he hoped to include representatives of other communities. There would

be no victimization or nationalization of private property. He would follow a non-aligned policy, coexisting with South Africa on the

basis of mutual recognition of political differences. The main opposition leaders accepted Mr Mugabe's victory and offered to cooperate.

No victimization or nationalization of private property

From Nicholas Ashford and Dan van der Vat Salisbury, March 4

Mr Robert Mugabe, leader of the radical Zanu (PF) party, today began talks with other party leaders aimed at forming a broadly based Government for an independent Zimbabwe, after official confirmation of his sweeping election victory.

Mr Mugabe, who this morning was asked by the Governor, Lord Soames, to form a government, has already had talks with Mr Joshua Nkomo, leader of the Patriotic Front, and Mr Ian Smith, leader of the white Rhodesian Front.

Zanu (PF) won 57 of the 80 black seats in the new House of Assembly, enough for a comfortable absolute majority even when the 20 seats reserved for whites are taken into account.

However, he told a press conference today that the new Government would be "a patriotic front government" in which Mr Nkomo's party would also take part. Mr Nkomo won 20 seats, leaving only three for the Bishop Abel Muzorewa's UANC. This Mugabe-Nkomo partnership would amount to a revival of the old Patriotic Front alliance which fought the guerrilla war against white rule and negotiated a unit at Lancaster House.

Mr Mugabe also made it clear that he would consider bringing Europeans into his administration "in order to bring about a government that will be reassuring to all people of Zimbabwe". According to informed sources, he may offer junior positions in his cabinet to the Rhodesian Front and the UANC.

In a broadcast to the nation tonight, Mr Mugabe said he hoped to establish a national front which, in the interests of "reconciliation", would include representatives who were copied from other communities. This "reconciliation" would adhere to the letter and the spirit of the Constitution and would uphold fundamental rights and freedoms.

Statements from both victors and vanquished today emphasized the need for peace, reconciliation and co-operation. At his press conference, Mr Mugabe said he would ensure that there was a place for everybody in a new Zimbabwe.

In his broadcast tonight, he assured civil servants that their pension rights would be respected and said he had received assurances from senior members of the armed forces and the public service that they would be prepared to work under his Government. He added that he had authorized Lieutenant-General Peter Walls, commander of combined operations, to preside over the integration of the Zulu and Zivra forces with the Rhodesian security forces.

Everyone must accept result

Mr Nkomo also preferred to see the election result as the triumph of the old Patriotic Front alliance. "Together we have won 77 seats," he said. "What everyone must do now is to accept the result, which gives us independence—that is the central objective."

He said it was essential to create a stable state with the cooperation of all possible groups to provide the foundation of national reconciliation. But he fought shy of questions about what might be the subject of a mental job he would see for or expected to be offered.

Mr Ian Smith, who conferred

NATIONAL RESULT				
Party	Votes	% of total vote	Seats	
NDU	15,056	0.568		
NFZ	18,794	0.708		
PF	638,879	24.113	20	
UANC	219,307	8.277	3	
UNFP	5,796	0.219		
UPAM	1,181	0.045		
Zanu	53,343	2.013		
Zanu (PF)	1,688,382	62.982	57	
ZDF	28,181	1.064		
Total valid votes 2,849,529				
Total seats 80				
Spoilt papers 52,748				
Total poll 2,702,275 (94 per cent)				

with the Governor this afternoon, said that Rhodesians were used to difficulties and adversities and knew they would never solve problems by running away from them. He said that despite Mr Mugabe's Marxist reputation, he thought the Prime Minister-Designate was a pragmatist. He felt it was unlikely whites would flee the country.

Even Bishop Muzorewa, who suffered a thoroughly humiliating defeat only 10 months after his party had won a landslide in the "internal settlement" election, grudgingly accepted the outcome.

Jubilant crowds in townships

The atmosphere in the Salisbury, African townships today after the results were officially announced was exuberant but not threatening. Jubilant crowds danced and sang, there was constant cheering and repetition of the cock-crow (the brilliant choice of a cockerel as party symbol must have helped Zanu-PF immensely) and little work seemed to be going on.

Much of the tension visible during the campaign and the electoral period has died down. No major incidents have been reported and contacts between security forces and guerrillas wanting to leave their assembly areas.

At his press conference, Mr Mugabe made it clear he intended to retain General Walls in his present position for the time being. "We have not asked anyone to resign," he said. "Everyone stays on. No one is being retired."

There would be no victimization or nationalization of private property, he said. "We will bring about changes in a realistic manner."

He added that the economic structure of the country was based on capitalism and "whatever ideas we have for the future must be built on that structure."

His Government would follow a strict non-aligned foreign policy. Zimbabwe would also have to co-exist with South Africa on the basis of mutual recognition of the political differences between the two countries, he said.

South Africa (its next door neighbour) was the subject of the autonomy negotiations now being conducted by Israel and Egypt.

Mr Mugabe, voting for the resolution, said that the United States, while accepting that all Israeli settlements in occupied territories were illegal, reserved its position on the resolution's demand that they all be dismantled.

The spokesman, today, was unable to explain why the United States could take a position on the settlements, which



A victorious Mr Robert Mugabe outside his home in Salisbury yesterday.

Timetable for the future of Zimbabwe

No date has yet been set when Southern Rhodesia will become the independent republic of Zimbabwe although it is hoped the handover of power by Britain to the new government may take place before the end of this month.

The final date will depend on the speed with which Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister-designate, manages to form a government. During a meeting between Lord Soames, the Governor, and Mr Mugabe today, Lord Soames emphasized that Mr Mugabe should take his time in establishing what is expected to be a broadly-based government in which both Mr Joshua Nkomo's Patriotic Front and the White Rhodesian Front, both of which hold 20 seats, will be represented.

Mr Mugabe has already had preliminary talks with Mr Ian Smith and Mr Nkomo. This evening he had talks with his party's central committee about the shape of his new administration. He has not yet given any indication how long consultations will last before he is in a position to form a government.

Once a government has been announced

and Mr Mugabe has been sworn in as Prime Minister a number of other constitutional procedures have to be followed before independence day and the departure of the Governor.

First the Senate, comprising 40 senators, must be established. The Senate will consist of 10 senators elected by the 20 white Members of Parliament, 12 senators elected by the black Members of Parliament and 10 African chiefs. Five of whom will be elected by the Mashonaland Council of Chiefs and the other five by the Matabeleland Council of Chiefs. Another six senators will be appointed by the Governor.

Once these elections are completed the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly sitting together will elect a president. It is widely expected that Mr Nkomo will become the country's first president. Only then will there be a constitutional head of state to whom the Governor can surrender power.

The timing of these steps is uncertain, but two to three weeks is considered reasonable. Mr Nicholas Fenn, the Governor's spokesman, said he hoped to be back in Britain before Easter.

Westminster praise for elections

By Hugh Noyes

Parliamentary Correspondent

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, and Sir Ian Gilmour, the Lord Privy Seal, announcing the results of the Rhodesia election in Parliament yesterday, showed their determination to dispel the impression that Mr Robert Mugabe, the newly-elected Prime Minister, is a Marxist puppet of the Soviet Union.

But, apart from this small group of Conservative MPs who could probably be numbered on the fingers of both hands, it was a day for congratulations all round. Seldom can the opposing sides of the Commons and the Lords be so united as they were yesterday in their acceptance of the success of the Rhodesian exercise, and in praise of political opponents.

Lord Carrington and Sir Ian made clear that they wished the new government well, that they would cooperate in all possible ways, that Lord Soames, the Governor, at Mr Mugabe's request, would remain in Rhodesia until Independence Day, and that there would be discussions to decide the level of financial assistance needed by the new regime.

Earlier, Mrs Margaret Thatcher added her congratulations when she told the House that the British Government wished the whole of Zimbabwe well in forming a government, and in taking over the duties that would resume on independence.

Lord Carrington, in his statement, said it had been the virtually unanimous view of the British Commonwealth, and other international observers, that the elections were, in the circumstances, free and fair. The exceptionally high turnout provided an indication of the confidence of the Rhodesian people in the conduct of the elections and the secrecy of the vote.

Lord Home of the Hirsel, who, as a former Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary, had wrestled long and hard with the question of Rhodesia, said he was pleased to see the results of the elections.

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TUC drop out of talks on law reform

By Paul Routledge Labour Editor

The Government and the unions yesterday reached the end of the road on the issue of labour law reform. TUC leaders said they would take no further part in talks on the Employment Bill now going through Parliament.

Deadlock on the Cabinet's measures to curb trade union power was reported by both sides after discussions lasting nearly two hours between Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, and the TUC's employment policy and organization committee.

The unions once again invited the minister to withdraw his "legalistic intervention" in the affairs of the labour movement and reach an accommodation with the TUC on a voluntary code of conduct governing such issues as picking, the closed shop and secret ballots.

But Mr Prior told them that the voluntary system of industrial relations had to be underpinned by law. "The Government believes the present situation cannot continue," he said. "We are taking sensible steps to restrict trade union immunities in a way that still allows the unions to function freely."

Mr Harry Urwin, chairman of the TUC committee, said: "Unless the Government changes its mind, we see little point in talking to them." Privately, the union leaders accept it would be politically impossible for the Cabinet to back down from its commitment to legislate.

However, the unions will today brief senior members of the Shadow Cabinet on their arguments against the Bill. But the real opposition outside Parliament will be drawn up by the employment policy committee on March 19. Already unions are being urged not to take advantage of the £2m of public money to be made available each year for secret ballots.

The TUC see the legislation as part of a "massive incursion into the rights of people to bring their trade unions and to seek redress for their grievances."

Mr Urwin, who is deputy general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, added: "I cannot discount another Pentonville Five situation. Five dockers, five members of an official TGWU, were jailed in 1972 for contempt of the National Industrial Relations Court set up under Mr Heath's ill-fated Industrial Relations Act, 1971. After a national dock strike and the threat of an official one-day TUC general strike, they were released on the intervention of the Official Solicitor."

The TUC's own guidelines on trade union behaviour during industrial disputes, agreed in the dying days of the Callaghan Administration, are now regarded as a dead letter.

We cannot expect people to have restrictions imposed on them by the TUC and on top be threatened with further legalistic interventions," Mr Urwin said.

Mr Prior was told that the unions were still willing to discuss ways of improving industrial relations, but there could be little prospect of such talks succeeding while the Government refused to moderate its approach on a range of issues including industrial relations law.

Mr Urwin said the union side had "completely rejected" the Cabinet's approach and would not attend further discussions on the Bill. The TUC will now look to its own interests, working out how to defend unions and their members caught up in the new law.

"We are committed by decision of last year's Congress to use the full resources of membership and finance to assist unions who find themselves in difficulties as a result of the legislation," the employment committee chairman said.

That is a very broad remit. One Political Staff writer, a former Conservative minister who is now chairman of backbench committees, last night tabled an early day motion in the Commons deploring the TUC decision to call for a day of action on May 14.

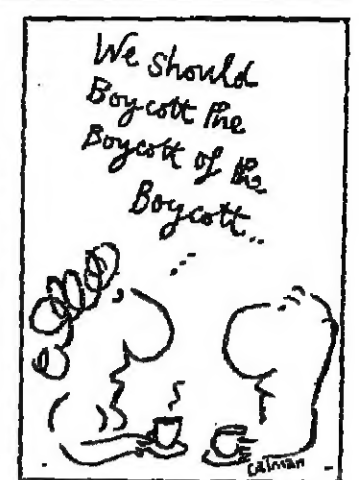
US interest rates rise above 17%

American authorities have tightened fiscal and monetary policies in an attempt to reduce record rates of inflation. Banks have raised prime rates to 17 per cent from 16½ per cent, and President Carter told congressional leaders that he was determined to cut back government spending by at least

\$15,800m in the 1980-1 budget year. Sterling fell on the world's currency markets as the dollar strengthened. In London the pound closed at 82.237 and against the basket of currencies it fell by 0.9 points to finish at 71.7 per cent of its 1971 value, a drop of more than 2 per cent since Friday. Page 21

British Olympic verdict delayed

A decision on whether Britain will send a team to the Olympic Games in Moscow has been deferred for three weeks. The British Olympic Association decided to delay a reply to the Soviet invitation until the association's next meeting on March 25. But there was a majority in favour of participation. Sir Denis Follows, the association's chairman, indicated to sportsmen upset by the further delay that there was every chance that the final decision would be to attend the games. Page 2



French adamant on lamb curbs

Attempts to find a compromise in the dispute between Britain and France over lamb imports failed. Italy agreed with Mr Peter Walker that France's action constituted "a blatant violation" of the Rome Treaty. The European Court of Justice may be asked to order the French to abolish their controls. Page 7

Research site blast kills two

An explosion at the Summerfield road research station, Kidderminster, killed two workmen who were "burning out" residual material from rocket motors. A woman, her small son and a woman neighbour living on the perimeter of the station were slightly injured and their homes severely damaged by the blast. Page 4

Peers' challenge on school buses

The Government faces a possible defeat in the Lords next week over the proposed charges for school transport. About forty Roman Catholic peers and Tories from rural areas are among those opposing the charges. Page 2

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Letters: On BBC music cut, from Mr Raymond Fisher and Mr Peter Maxwell Davies; on economics, from Professor F. B. Hayek, FBA; on a possible new silver bullion, from Dr Basil Bard. Features: Rhodesia; United States vote on Israel. Business: pages 20-26. Stock markets: The latest American prime rate increase depressed the market for the pound. The FT index fell 7.1 points to 455.1. Financial Lullaby: Timing moves in the money market; Unlucky profit setback. Business features: Geoffrey Bell asks whether America has caught the British despite economic inflation; Michael Ball examines the prospects for reviving the Channel tunnel. Business Diary: The Cinderella of America's presidential candidates; twisting the arms of insurance companies.

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US says anti-Israel vote was error

From Patrick Brogan Washington, March 4

President Carter admitted in a statement last night that his Administration had made a serious error on Saturday in voting in favour of a United Nations Security Council resolution condemning Israel. Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, issued a statement this morning, "accepting responsibility for the failure of communications."

The resolution condemned Israel for establishing settlements in the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip, and was passed unanimously. It seemed that the United States, by supporting it, was expressing severe displeasure with the Israeli Government and that the vote represented a substantial shift in American policy. The United States abstained from voting on a similar form of the same resolution a year ago.

Today's official version of events is that President Carter, who was in Camp David, instructed Mr Vance to tell Mr Donald McHenry, the American representative to the United Nations, that he should vote for the resolution provided that all

references to Jerusalem were excised.

Mr Vance is said to have failed to make the matter clear to Mr McHenry. The resolution refers repeatedly to Jerusalem, in such phrases as "Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem."

Yesterday a State Department spokesman said that the resolution accurately reflected American policy, and Mr McHenry said the same thing himself this morning. A more senior spokesman today declined to contradict those two officials, but said that the President had decided that it would be "inopportune to mention Jerusalem because it was the subject of the autonomy negotiations now being conducted by Israel and Egypt."

Mr McHenry, voting for the resolution, said that the United States, while accepting that all Israeli settlements in occupied territories were illegal, reserved its position on the resolution's demand that they all be dismantled.

The spokesman, today, was unable to explain why the United States could take a position on the settlements, which

are part and parcel of the autonomy negotiations, and refuse to take a position on Jerusalem on the grounds that it is part of those same negotiations.

In his statement last night, issued after 10 pm, President Carter said that the vote did not represent a change in American policy. He said that the call to dismantle the settlements "was neither proper nor practical."

He added: "We believe that the future disposition of existing settlements must be determined during the current autonomy negotiations. As to Jerusalem, we strongly believe that Jerusalem should be undivided with free access to the holy places for all faiths and that its status should be determined in the negotiations for a comprehensive peace settlement."

"The United States' vote in the United Nations was approved with the understanding that all references to Jerusalem would be deleted. The failure to communicate this clearly resulted in a vote in favour of the resolution, rather than in abstention."

Tito fight against pneumonia

From Dazza Trevisan Belgrade, March 4

President Tito's condition remains grave and has been grave for almost three weeks but he is showing remarkable strength in the struggle for life.

Today his doctors reported that pneumonia which set in 12 days ago and which they were hitherto unsuccessful in trying to contain was now beginning to subside but they added a warning that the President, who is 87, remained gravely ill.

The bulletin issued from the Ljubljana clinical centre was again extremely reserved. Nevertheless this is the first time in 12 days that some improvement was noted. However, pneumonia, President Tito is also suffering from kidney failure and heart weakness.

Last week his condition was said to be critical and so one can foresee how long he can resist. His heart was said to have weakened a few days ago.

Prince of Wales (at 5-4) is second past the post

By John Young

"Come on Charlie," the crowd shouted as the horses raced up the straight. But loyalty and partisanship were not enough.

In the last race at Plumpton yesterday, the hot favourite, Long Wharf (His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales up) went down by a couple of lengths to the mount of an upstart commoner from the BBC.

Even in defeat, however, the heir to the throne made history by becoming the first member of the Royal Family, at least in modern times, to compete as a jockey.

Spectators, including those who had backed him to win at odds as cramped as 5-4, applauded warmly as he rode back to the parade ring after the race.

The uniqueness of the occasion, enhanced by glorious spring-like weather, had drawn thousands of people to the tiny Sussex course, many times the number that might be expected at an average mid-week meeting. The crowd seemed to get bigger, as parents arrived with

their children after collecting them from school.

There was a flutter of excitement when a dark blue and white helicopter, emblazoned with what looked like the royal arms, landed after the third race. But the insignia turned out to belong to a cigarette company. In any case, the Prince had arrived before lunch to walk the course.

The race, the Madhatters Private Sweepstake, was won by the BBC Radio 2 commentator, Derek Thompson, on Classified, who earned himself about £900 and a methuselah of champagne.

He said afterwards that he had achieved his greatest ambition. Predictably the Prince, whose share of the prize money came to about £250, displayed none of the hauteur that some of his more arrogant ancestors might have displayed in similar circumstances. "All I would like to say is how much I enjoyed it and how sorry I am for those who put too much money on my horse," he said.

Photograph, page 2

"I believe that the level of City Office rents will remain a barometer of National and International well-being and further rises and falls are inevitable, the investor being protected from the latter by upward-only rent reviews."

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PARIS AMSTERDAM LONDON

HOME NEWS

Peers from rural areas may rally to defeat the Government on charges for school transport

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

With the Duke of Norfolk, the premier earl, leading about 40 Roman Catholic peers and many Conservative and cross-bench peers from rural areas in opposition to school transport charges, the Government faces the prospect of a defeat in the Lords next week during the committee stage of the Education (No. 2) Bill.

The Labour opposition peers will bring out their full strength to support the duke's amendment to delete the clause that would impose charges for transport.

It would be open to the Government whips to summon many Conservative peers who may usually vote to try to do not to vote, but the chances are that those brought in from rural areas may decide, after hearing the debate, to vote against the clause.

Lord Butler of Saffron Walden, who as Mr R. A. Butler marshalled through the Commons the famous Education Act, 1944, has hinted that he will vote against the clause.

He said during the second reading debate that it would have been better if the millions which it was proposed to spend on assisted places for bright pupils in independent schools were used to provide transport. He and other peers who are concerned about the future of children from rural areas believe that the Bill, if the trans-

port clause is not deleted, will be yet another disadvantage imposed on village communities. The Government ran into much opposition in the Commons from Conservative MPs and introduced a last-minute amendment to ensure that there would be a standard transport charge imposed without regard to the distance a child has to travel.

About 300 amendments have been tabled by Labour peers, whose opposition to the Bill is led by Lady David, who has been in local government since 1964. The Liberal and other peers have tabled many more amendments, bringing the total up to about 600.

Peers will spend next week on the committee stage, with an all-night sitting on Tuesday. Lady Llewellyn-Davies, the Opposition Chief Whip, said yesterday: "The House is gravely disturbed about the weight of legislation which is being piled on all the Commons during the coming months."

"It is being treated as a professional House when it is not. It is a part-time, unpaid House. No one is going to want to stay here until midnight every night until the end of July."

She said it seemed inevitable that the Government would have to drop one of its main Bills.

Lord Peart, leader of the Opposition peers, has written to

Lord Patters, acting leader of the House, and Lord Denham, the Government Chief Whip, warning them that the Labour peers will not attend the Lords in August if the Commons is in recess.

He believes the Government has badly mishandled its legislative programme, with the result that it will be forced to guillotine in the Commons seven of its main Bills, including the Employment Bill, the Local Government Planning and Land Bill, the Housing Bill, the Industry Bill and the Transport Bill.

Opposition peers do not expect that there will be time for the promised Bill to reform the law on contempt of court to get through this session.

Lord Peart says that the imposition of the guillotine in the Commons makes it more essential than ever that the Lords should carry out its duties as a revising chamber, debating and amending, if necessary, clauses of Bills which have never been examined in detail in the Commons.

He believes that the Lords has never before been placed in the predicament it is in this session, when both Government and Opposition are likely to issue three-line whips for peers to attend almost every day, with the exception of Wednesdays, between now and the summer recess.

Nato gave £32,335 to Labour moderates

By Frances Gibb

More than £30,000 has been given by Nato to a moderate group within the Labour Party in the past five years, Lord Carrington, Foreign Secretary, said yesterday. That represented most of Nato's £48,000 grants to party organizations, he said in a written reply to Lord Brockway.

Lord Carrington gave figures showing that Nato has provided a Labour Party/TUC press service with a grant of between £6,000 and £7,000 a year since 1976, a total of £32,335.

It also gave just over £6,000 to an organization called the British Atlantic Service and £9,000 to the European Atlantic Movement over the same period.

Lord Brockway said yesterday: "I regard it as reprehensible that Nato should be funding a section within a political party, a section which has been campaigning against its national executive and the left wing. But I would be just as against money coming from external sources to the left wing."

He said he would be taking further action on the matter, as it was bound to be highly controversial.

His question came after a disclosure in *The Sunday Times* on February 17 that a monthly press service sponsored by prominent right-wing Labour MPs and trade union leaders was funded by Nato.

The sponsors of the service, called the Labour Committee for Transatlantic Understanding, are chaired by Mr Roy Mason, former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. Other members include Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour's environment spokesman, Dr David Owen, former Foreign Secretary and Mr William Rodgers, defence spokesman.

Union members include Mr Frank Chapple, the electoral officer, Mr Terence Duffy, of the engineers' union, Mr William Sims, of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation and Mr Sidney Weisheit, of the National Union of Railwaymen.

A selection of articles is published for free use by newspapers and trade unions, distributed by the committee's offshoot, the Labour and Trades Union Press Service.

Contributors included Mr Harold Wilson, writing on the need for resistance to Labour's left-wing executive, and Mr Denis Healey, shadow Chancellor, writing on the essential link between pay and productivity.

The press service's joint editorial director is Mr Alan Williams, a former Labour MP and director general of the English-Speaking Union.

Direct-charges to control public spending urged

By John Grosse

The path to the control of public expenditure lies through the control of the public sector, the chairman of the Selsdon Group said yesterday.

Such a policy allows the individual, as consumer, to choose to use private services and among public sector products.

The Selsdon Group, formed in 1973 to ensure that the case for the free-market economy received the fullest hearing within the Conservative Party, publishes from time to time "policy briefs".

The latest is not intended to be an attack on Government policy.

Introducing the brief at a press conference yesterday, Mr Richard Ritchie, the chairman of the group, said that the pamphlet was intended to bring home, not least to the Conservative Party, the reality that public expenditure is not a neutral, but a political, issue.

The other main arguments of the brief are that public expenditure must be cut drastically to reduce the pressures on the financial system and that the free-market economy must be restored to its proper place.

Mr Ritchie said that the brief was not intended to be an attack on Government policy, but to ensure that the case for the free-market economy received the fullest hearing within the Conservative Party.

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The Prince of Wales preparing to race at Plumpton yesterday.

Left-wingers to fight AUEW rule changes

By Our Labour Staff

Left-wingers in the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers are preparing to fight against planned rule changes, which they believe would give the present right wing leadership of the union greater control over delegations to the Labour Party and the TUC.

The planned changes are expected to come before this year's five-yearly rules revision committee, together with a proposal to replace elected branch secretaries in selected areas with appointed secretaries.

Executive proposals are that the Labour Party and TUC delegations from next year would be elected by an expanded policy-making national committee.

The national committee will be expanded from 53 to 147, assuming that the planned merger between the union's dominant engineering section, the construction and foundry sections and the National Union of Sheet Metal Workers, Copper-smiths, Heating and Domestic Engineers goes ahead.

The left wing is also preparing to challenge a further proposed rule change which they claim would deprive the Labour Party and TUC delegations of their right to decide whom to support among nominees for the TUC General Council and

Labour Party National Executive Committee.

At present the changes look likely to go ahead, since this year's national committee, which in turn becomes the rules revision committee, is expected to have a built-in majority of at least 26 votes to 22, and probably 30 votes to 24.

There is, however, certain to be a strong challenge by left-wingers, and opponents of the changes will try to convince waverers on the committee, made up of rank and file members, that the changes are unacceptable.

The issue has been complicated by the fact that implementation of the merger plans has been delayed because of an examination that the Certification Officer is obliged to make.

The sheet metal workers' general secretary, Mr George Guy, has told his members through the union journal that the ballot required before the merger can take place may be deferred.

He said that the Certification Officer's lawyers have been concerned that there is no reference to how the terms of the full AUEW amalgamation, which includes the Technical, Administrative and Supervisory Staffs section, is to be changed to allow the proposals to go ahead.

Man who hit PC with snowball is fined £250

Francis Delaney, a labourer, was fined £250 at Manchester Magistrates' Court yesterday for assaulting a policeman, causing bodily harm. He was also ordered to pay £30 compensation to the officer and £65 court costs.

Mr Delaney, 20, said: "I will never throw another snowball as long as I live."

Mr William Jones, for the defence, said Mr Delaney intended to go to knock off PC Mack's helmet "for a bit of fun". He was sorry for the injury that resulted.

Mr Delaney, of Cringle Road, Levenshulme, Manchester, who admitted the assault, was also ordered to pay £30 compensation to the officer and £65 court costs.

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Irish Cardinal to join talks on Maze protest

From Christopher Thomas

The explosive H block issue at the Maze prison, near Belfast, is to be discussed by Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and Cardinal O'Flaherty, Roman Catholic Primate of All Ireland.

The "H block protest" is one of the most emotive propaganda weapons in the hands of the IRA. More than 300 prisoners are refusing to wash, wear prison clothing, or do prison work, said, according to their weekly magazine, *Republican*. They are regularly removed from their cells for the walls to be cleaned with high pressure steam.

Mr Atkins shared the belief that the H block protest should be ended, but there could be no question of its achieving the objective of reviving special category status for the prisoners. That remained the firm policy of government, a Northern Ireland Office spokesman said yesterday.

He added: "Despite the particularly unpleasant circumstances which have been created within the prison, the authorities will continue to make every effort to maintain the most humane possible conditions."

Cardinal O'Flaherty visited the Maze three days ago, which he said paved the way for his projected meeting with Mr Atkins. Apart from visiting the "H block", he said, he was "so-called because they drap themselves in bed-

clothes rather than wear regulation clothing. Cardinal O'Flaherty saw other republican and "loyalist" prisoners.

His previous visit to the Maze was in July, 1979, when he was an Archbishop, and he emerged with some harsh-hitting comments about the "conditions there. This time he was much more restrained."

In a statement issued yesterday he said no effort should be spared in trying to avert the development of a second H block situation, which would be a tragedy and a setback for the peace process.

That was a reference to a developing protest in the Armagh women's prison where some inmates have been throwing excrement into the exercise yard.

The statement said that the cardinal wished to ascertain whether there was any useful role he could play at this stage in seeking a resolution of the H block issue.

The impact of the long campaign has recently shown signs of flagging, and the IRA is believed to be anxious for it to end. The impact of the protest, however, came from the fact that it was a challenge to the IRA's leadership.

IRA leaders, it is said, succeeded in dissuading some of them from embarking on a strike that possibly would have had a value which would not justify the consequential deaths.

Paisley stand effectively ends constitution hopes

From Our Own Correspondent

The usefulness of the Ulster constitutional talks appeared to have been brought to an effective end last night after the Rev Ian Paisley gave an uncompromising exposition of how the Democratic Unionist Party viewed the role of minority groups in a devolved government.

Sources within the non-sectarian Alliance Party privately expressed amazement at the unyielding stance of Ulster's second biggest Unionist party over the vital question of how Roman Catholics are to be incorporated into an effective administration.

And sources within the Social Democratic and Labour Party were exasperated at the DUP's stand, which apparently does little to modify the outright majority advantage of the "loyalists". There clearly is a prospect of the SDLP and DUP bridging the enormous gap between them.

After yesterday's session there is mounting speculation on how soon the conference will be wound up. There is

little doubt that it will not last beyond next month.

The day began and ended with close questioning by the SDLP and the Alliance Party of the DUP's proposals covering the role of minorities. That process continued through the day, with the indications that the DUP has shifted little from its ideal of a pre-1974 Stormont structure.

The hopelessness of the situation was demonstrated by another taciturn communiqué from the Northern Ireland Office which recorded merely that discussion of the minority role would continue at a half-day's session today.

During the day the Alliance Party issued a document which stated that a type of administration adopting the principles of the Swiss model of government could overcome the difficulties of an institution of devolved government in Northern Ireland. It would allow minority participation in government, majority rule through the assembly, and maximum accountability through strong committees.

Doctor supplied addicts

A doctor who was said to have prescribed drugs to addicts in return for cash payments was struck off the register by the General Medical Council yesterday.

The council's disciplinary committee heard that Dr Abdul Nazem, aged 40, had prescribed drugs to a young addict who had later used them to commit suicide. It found him guilty of serious professional misconduct and said these subject to any appeal within 28 days he would be struck off the register forthwith.

Addicts were said to have queued up at the surgery of Dr Nazem, in Wilton Road, Aston, Birmingham, and given false names and addresses.

Mr Anthony Hadden, QC, for the council, said that Dr Nazem, who qualified in Decca in 1966, was prepared to issue prescriptions for large quantities of drugs and large quantities of prescriptions before the earlier quantity should have been exhausted.

Only the best stolen

Silver trophies worth £7,000 have been stolen from Westworth Golf Club, in Surrey. Only solid silver items were taken.

Correction

In Whitehall Brief yesterday Mr David Chambers should have been described as the only Liberal county councillor in Nottinghamshire.

Speculation on peace move as steel union leaders gather

By Paul Routledge

Steel union leaders gathered at TUC headquarters last night for a hurriedly arranged conference on the national strike, which enters its tenth week today.

The meeting was called by Mr Len Mundy, general secretary of the TUC, amid mounting speculation that a peace initiative is in the offing.

Earlier Mr William Sims, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, met Mr James Callaghan and Mr Michael Foot, leader and deputy leader of the Labour Party, at the House of Commons.

The prospect of third-party mediation was again raised by Mr Callaghan, and Mr Sims agreed to raise the idea with leaders of the other main unions involved at the conference.

The strike is now the longest national stoppage in recent history, exceeding the nine-week postman's strike of 1971, which ended in defeat for the Union of Post Office Workers and disarray for the Labour movement.

Over the past few weeks there has been a negotiating impasse, which the British Steel Corporation is attempting to break by belittling 130,000 strikers on whether they want a vote on the employers' "final" pay and productivity offer of 14 per cent.

On Monday 200 London bus routes were affected by a one-hour strike from 8.30 am, during which men at 48 garages joined the Chalk Farm dispute.

Mr Mundy became a foreman in November, 1978, when 22 of the 86 buses at Chalk Farm were unfit for service and many crews spent their working days in the canten.

By last June he had all but one of the buses back on the road. Shortly after that, and after a strike, London Transport held an inquiry, and Mr Mundy was sent on a management training course, from which he returned to Chalk Farm on Monday.

The company said Mr Mundy, who has so far refused to comment on the dispute, had again reported for work at Chalk Farm yesterday.

"Presumably the crews say some buses are not fit for service and this is what is affecting the service on certain routes. We understand there could be more 'lightning' action later in the week."

Bill 'gives the minister too much power'

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

The Government's proposals on local government finance give far too much power to the Secretary of State without any indication whatsoever as to how he will use those powers," the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy said yesterday.

Commenting on the Local Government, Planning and Land Bill, now at the committee stage in Parliament, the institute said that the way the Secretary of State for the Environment would exercise his discretion was entirely unpredictable.

The institute argues that the Bill is making a fundamental constitutional change in the relationship between central and local government by enabling central government to "reach down to the level of individual authorities."

Referring to proposals for a block grant for council spending, the institute said: "There seems little justification for the control the proposals will give. They will put unnecessary reliance on assessments and, given the fact that they cannot be properly prepared, this seems wholly unsatisfactory."

Introducing the brief at a press conference yesterday, Mr Richard Ritchie, the chairman of the group, said that the pamphlet was intended to bring home, not least to the Conservative Party, the reality that public expenditure is not a neutral, but a political, issue.

The other main arguments of the brief are that public expenditure must be cut drastically to reduce the pressures on the financial system and that the free-market economy must be restored to its proper place.

Mr Ritchie said that the brief was not intended to be an attack on Government policy, but to ensure that the case for the free-market economy received the fullest hearing within the Conservative Party.

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Prison control unit 'frightening and disorienting', ex-inmate tells court

By Annabel Ferriman

The prison control unit at Wakefield Prison is "frightening, depressing, and disorienting," Mr Michael Williams, a former prisoner who spent 180 days in the unit, told the High Court yesterday.

"I did not understand why people were attacking my brain as they were doing, and I never shall understand," he said. Mr Williams, aged 39, is suing the Home Office for a declaration that the unit, which was closed in 1975, was unlawful.

He said that he was not allowed to have any of his possessions in his cell, no radio, photographs, games or exercise equipment. He could have only three books at a time, and the choice was poor.

Arrangements for eating and "sleeping out" were such that one prisoner never saw another

and the prison officers "just looked through you". No privacy was allowed and three prison officers watched him in the showers and on the lavatory.

Mr Williams said, Prisoners were "stripped naked" before and after the day's hour of exercise.

He saw no other prisoner for the first four weeks, but he was then allowed to exercise with one man.

His cell was like a hospital room and he thought he was being treated as if he were mentally ill. "It was in the back of my mind that I would never get out of there and I did not know how much of it I could stand."

Mr Williams, who was released on parole last month after serving a 4-year sentence for armed robbery, said that when he was transferred to

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HOME NEWS

Government offers £1m lifeline to tide over film finance body

By Kenneth Gosling
Arts Reporter

A lifeline was held out by the Government to the ailing British film industry with the announcement yesterday that the National Film Finance Corporation will be able to borrow £1m under government guarantee.

Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Trade, said in a parliamentary reply that the concession would allow the corporation to remain in business until the introduction of legislation writing off debts of £13m. The Films Bill, to be published next month, proposes that the corporation will for a limited period receive an annual subvention from the Exchequer, which is the proportion of the cinema admission price returned to the industry. To benefit from the levy film has to be British and three quarters of the labour costs have to be paid to British staff.

The concession announced by Mr Nott is likely to alleviate the corporation's difficulties only partially. In its annual report yesterday, it contrasted the part-financing of 62 feature-length films 30 years ago with the four of last year.

Unless the corporation has funds to enable it to contribute towards the making of at least 10 films a year, it will be difficult to play an effective role in improving the climate for the British cinema, the report said.

As a result of the new arrangements for restructuring its funding, however, the corporation would for the first time have an annual income enabling it to plan more rationally.

But the task ahead was formidable. The new funds would be barely sufficient for the corporation to take proper risk and it would have to achieve plans to establish a marketing arm and limit the intention to play a more commercial role in distributing films it financed.

Mr Mamoun Hassan, the corporation's managing director, said yesterday: "We do not have a British film industry, because if you look at audience figures and returns, 75 per cent of the distributors' gross is accounted for by American films. Our audiences do not know what a British film is."

Since the annual report was prepared, the situation had worsened. Over 30 years the corporation had gone into partnership with EMI and Rank and some of the large American companies.

EMI was not proposing to invest any large sums in the British cinema and Rank, having made two fewer films last year than the corporation, was reported to be planning to spend £20m, but apparently in the United States, not in Britain.

National Film Finance Corporation: annual report and statement of accounts, year ended March 31, 1979 (Stationery Office, 22).

Proposals for core curriculum opposed

By A Staff Reporter

The Department of Education and Science (DES) proposals for a core curriculum in schools have been criticized by the Schools Council, the body that monitors curricula and examinations in schools.

At a meeting of the council's convocation in London yesterday, Mr John Tomlinson, chairman of the council, said the proposals put too much emphasis on subjects and not enough on teaching methods and processes of teaching.

Mr Tomlinson said: "Schools should have a common and broad curriculum, not a narrow one expressed in subject terms." He complained that the proposals had left unresolved the question of optional subjects and had relegated to one side aesthetics, personal development and preparation for life.

In its detailed submission to the DES, the Schools Council echoes many of the comments about curriculum development expressed by the school inspectors.

The Government's proposals would take more notice of the differences between primary and secondary school curricula and organizations. At present, it says, reference to secondary school practices predominate.

At yesterday's convocation the council announced that it had accepted an invitation to see Mr Mark Carlisle, QC, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, about the proposed single system of examinations at 16 plus.

This March is unlikely to provide another victory to rank beside Orpington or Edgely

Liberals throwing all they have into Southend by-election

By Ian Bradley

March is a good month for Liberals, the party's agent in the Southend, East, by-election, Mr Peter Chegwyn, is fond of pointing out. Eighteen years ago they won Orpington, a year ago Liverpool, Edgely.

This year, however, the prospect of another Liberal victory in March looks about as remote as the chance of an early restoration of the famous railway that until recently ran along Southend's long pier.

The Liberals are throwing all they have into the by-election. All but one of the party's 11 MPs are visiting the constituency, five of them for a canvass this afternoon.

Mr David Steel, who addressed a rally of 1,000 people at the beginning of the campaign, is returning next Tuesday. Mr Chegwyn has been brought from the Isle of Wight, where he helped in the Liberal victory of 1974, and other full-time workers have been called in to help.

The party's campaign is being fought on what by now have become the traditional Liberal lines of *Focus* newspapers, grumble sheets and the vigorous taking up of local grievances and complaints.

The candidate, Mr David Evans, aged 54, a marketing executive who has lived in the town for 25 years, makes much of local issues, particularly the recent rise in rail fares, which has caused resentment among the constituency's ten thousand commuters.

Mr Evans, who was on the local council for 18 years, is also anxious to help the other main group of workers in Southend, the small traders,

entirely on handouts to the press and not engaging in any direct canvassing.

If he gains only a few hundred votes, however, Mr Curry will further weaken the Liberals' already slender chances of winning, or coming second, and there is anger in the official Liberal camp about his intervention.

The Labour candidate, Mr Colin George, a community worker aged 41, also makes much of his local connection. He was elected to Southend council at the age of 21 and for the past seven years has run the town's Guild of Help and Citizens' Advice Bureau, where he has established a reputation for winning cases at tribunals.

Although Mr Curry claims substantial local Liberal support for his stance against the vesting down of Liberalism implicit in the party's recent flirtations with social democracy, it is unlikely that he will have a big impact on the campaign, since he is relying

on the town's now rather ailing position as a resort for day trippers from London.

Both Labour and Liberal camps detect a drift of support away from the Conservatives but are uncertain whom it will benefit. Southend, East, is by no means the true blue seat that the 10,774 majority achieved at the last election by the late Sir Stephen Macdonald would suggest.

In 1966 Labour came within 517 votes of winning it. All parties are agreed that a proportion of the big majority last May was a personal vote for Sir Stephen.

Mr Edward (Teddy) Taylor, the Conservative candidate, who until the last election was MP for Glasgow, Cathcart, is con-

fronted by Mr Eric Hoffer and Mr Wedgwood Benn coming down to support him. He says that he has not found the divisions in the party to be a big issue worrying voters.

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MAKE THE MOST OF ENERGY

Thatcher pledge to villages

The Prime Minister said yesterday that she recognized the "fear and unease" being expressed about the future of rural areas. The Government intended to do all it could to help to conserve the countryside and to preserve its traditional industries and small businesses.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, writing in *The Countryman* magazine, said: "A new term, rural deprivation, has been coined to describe these problems which lead some to fear a wholesale decline of village communities."

She realized the importance of ensuring that the needs and aspirations of those who lived and worked in villages were not overlooked.

Adequate public transport was essential in rural areas, where many people depended on it. "We want to see new types of services develop in the countryside to supplement existing buses and we want to encourage greater efficiency to keep the costs down."

Government proposals for reforming bus licensing would make it easier for people to start new bus services and to help each other by sharing cars and other small vehicles.

Mrs Thatcher said she was aware of concern about the loss of cultural and social activities. Such factors were considered most carefully, together with educational arguments, before approval was given to close a school.

"As many such schools have closed over the last four decades, there may be little further scope for 'rationalization' in this way."

Delay over vaccine for dog disease

By Hugh Clayton

Licensing of a specific vaccine against a disease that has killed hundreds of puppies in recent months is unlikely before next year, veterinary surgeons said yesterday. The disease, canine distemper infection (CDI), was described as "infectious and very persistent" by Dr Irene McCandlish, who is investigating it at Glasgow University veterinary school.

She said that veterinary surgeons had to rely on cat vaccines which worked against CDI but had not been officially cleared as safe for use on dogs. "It is up to individual veterinary surgeons to come to a decision after consultation with their clients," she said.

CDI was first identified in Britain in 1978. Last year it was the most serious dog disease in the country. Dr McCandlish said that it had killed "certainly hundreds and perhaps thousands" of the four and a half million dogs in Britain. It is not harmful to humans.

It seldom killed mature dogs, but it had destroyed whole litters of young puppies.

Although the disease was most prevalent in breeding establishments, it had also spread to stray dogs, thereby increasing the risk to household pets.

Infection was most likely by contact between dogs, but the virus survived in excrement and could be carried on shoes or clothes.

Dr McCandlish, who was speaking at a press conference in London, said: "We have identified something like 500 individual outbreaks, which often involve more than one dog."

Baby born after sterilization was reversed

From Our Correspondent Nottingham

A Nottingham mother has given birth to a baby after reversal of a sterilization operation.

Danielle Gamble is said to be the first baby born in England to a mother who had been sterilized by the clip operation.

Mrs Marilyn Gamble, aged 32, of Yatesbury Crescent, Strelley Estate, who already has three children, was sterilized in July, 1976. Nearly two years later she decided that she wanted a fourth child.

In February, 1978, she underwent an operation to reverse the sterilization, believed to be the first in England.

It was carried out by the inventor of the clip, Dr Marcus Filshie, a consultant gynaecologist at Nottingham City Hospital.

Bird society buys Poole nature reserve

From Our Correspondent Bournemouth

A 1,000-acre piece of Dorset heathland, including a 740-acre nature reserve, has been bought for more than £100,000 by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Since 1965 the society has leased the 740 acres at Arne, on the edge of Poole Harbour. Now it has bought the freehold of 1,016 acres, including the reserve, and additional woodlands and saltmarsh.

The reserve is listed as a site of international importance and the purchase was made possible by a Channel Islands charity trust, which paid the full cost.

The Arne heathland is one of the refuges of the Dorset Warbler. It also contains many species of British reptiles, including the smooth snake and sand lizard.

Change in responsibility allowance for councillors

By Our Parliamentary Staff

The Government has undertaken to change the provisions in the Local Government, Planning and Land (No 2) Bill that would introduce special responsibility allowances for members of local authorities, such as committee chairmen. The payments would be in addition to the existing attendance allowances.

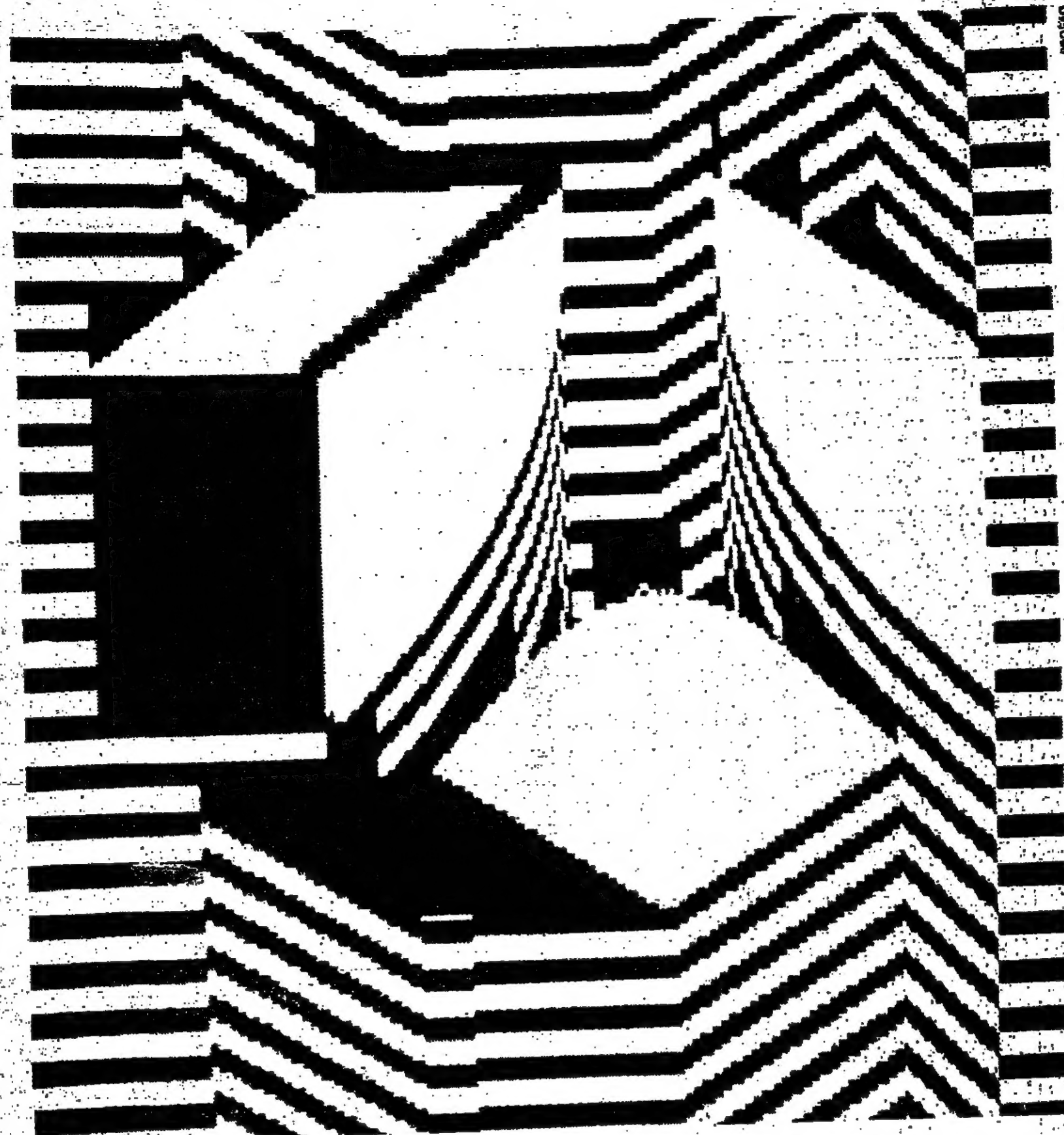
Mr Tom King, Minister for Local Government and Environmental Services, told the Commons standing committee on the Bill yesterday that there was no intention of introducing full-time salaries for councillors or committee chairmen.

The Bill as drafted would give the Secretary of State for the Environment power to make regulations specifying an upper limit to the allowance and the number of councillors to whom a council could pay it.

However, in response to reservations by Labour and Conservative members of the committee, Mr King accepted the case for deleting the reference to the number of councillors who could get the payment.

He agreed that specifying the number would tend to set the pattern of the structure of an authority. He could not envisage a situation in which, for example, eight committee chairmen would be paid the new allowances at four would not. He persuaded the Opposition to withdraw an amendment suggesting that the regulations should specify the total amount an authority could spend in paying the new allowances.

Mr King promised that there would be further discussions with the local authority associations with a view to deleting the provision relating to numbers and retaining the provision putting a ceiling on the sum. That would give greater discretion to local authorities, he said.



"Variations on a hexagon". Conception : A. Carrier. Design : J.F. Colonna, on a SEMS computer at LACTAMME (a joint laboratory of Ecole Polytechnique and Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Télécommunications, France).

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HOME NEWS

Nalgo begins debate on affiliation to the Labour Party

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter

The National and Local Government Officers' Association (Nalgo) is considering affiliation to the Labour Party, which would be one of the most significant political steps taken by a large union in recent years.

Nalgo's leadership has set in motion an internal debate on the subject by circulating to branches two papers setting out the case for and against affiliation, and also for and against setting up a political fund.

The move is certain to start an intense controversy in the union, which may not see its first public airing at the policy-making conference in June. Before the union, more than 60 per cent of whose members work in local government, is affiliated to the TUC, there were six ballots.

With 753,226 members, Nalgo is the fourth biggest union in the TUC and easily the biggest not yet affiliated to the Labour Party. By joining it would almost certainly for the foreseeable future substantially strengthen its block vote in the moderate wing of the party.

But affiliation would also mean a decisive break with the union's traditional neutrality, based on the premise that senior and middle-ranking local authority officers have different political masters.

In the case for affiliation, the head office paper says that "the general approach of the Labour Party towards the public services, social welfare, industrial regeneration and trade union rights is far closer to Nalgo's position than that of any other political party".

It notes the argument that when Labour is in office there is "ready access for union leaders at very senior levels in Whitehall" and adds: "It is argued that Nalgo should take full advantage of this situation by joining other unions in the Labour Party".

While Labour is in opposition, it says, work done by the party on regional and local government policy is likely to be put into practice when the party is returned to office. "In these circumstances it can be maintained that Nalgo has a responsibility to its members to ensure that its interests are represented."

"Another argument for affiliation, which not all Labour Party members in Nalgo would share, is that a generally moderate union such as Nalgo could exercise its influence within the Labour Party to prevent the adoption of extreme policies which might jeopardise the chances of a future Labour government being elected."

In setting out the case against affiliation, the paper gives a warning that a "stable proportion, if not a majority, of Nalgo members voted Conservative in the general election", and that affiliation would "certainly lead to resignations, possibly mass resignations."

Nalgo members are expected to give impartial advice to majority groups of differing political persuasions, it says, adding: "The position of senior officers dealing with matters of public service, social welfare, industrial regeneration and trade union rights is far closer to Nalgo's position than that of any other political party."

Most public bodies consisted of "statutory men", and women needed positive discrimination, if necessary by writing them into statutes so that they could be considered for public positions as of right.

Mr Prentice told the committee that "tentative consideration" was being given to potential candidates for the new committee, and the names included those of several women. He expected the new committee to comprise both men and women, under a chairman, and a vice-chairman.

But he rejected the idea that the time given to the job by the chairman should be specified by statute, on the ground that flexibility was needed. The present commission chairman had not had his contract specified by statute, but a similar arrangement had been possible.

The Bill proposes that the new committee should comprise a chairman and 8 to 11 members, who would be appointed for a minimum of three years and a maximum of five years. The membership would include a representative of the trade union movement, employers, Northern Ireland, and one person who has worked among chronically sick and disabled people.

Labour MPs tabled amendments to give the new body either a full-time chairman or one who would work four days a week, as the present chairman of the commission does. In addition they wanted the membership to include a social security claimant and at least three women.

Miss Josephine Richardson, Labour MP for Barking, said that women were still seriously under-represented in public jobs, although they made up more than half the population. Only 5 per cent of MPs were women, a fifth of local authorities.

£9m boost for schools' microtechnology

By a Staff Reporter

The Government is to spend £9m over the next four years on a microelectronics development programme for schools and colleges, Mr Neil Macfarlane, Under-Secretary of State, Department of Education and Science, told MPs yesterday.

He said in a parliamentary committee reply that the programme would serve the needs of education and industry by helping schools and colleges to make better use of microelectronics as a teaching resource.

It would equip young people with the skills required to exploit the economic potential of new technology.

The programme, which will be managed by a full-time director based at the Council for Educational Technology, is not designed to provide computers and equipment for schools. It will concentrate on developing projects in curriculum development and teacher training.

The Department of Education has received more than 50 proposals for projects. It is inviting interested national and local organizations to submit ideas.

Woman's body found

The body of Miss Sally McGrath, aged 23, of Peterborough, who disappeared last July after signing on for unemployment benefit, was found yesterday in a spinney at Caster Hamlet, five miles from Peterborough.

Reports about boy's heart criticized

Dr David Paul, the North London coroner, yesterday criticized the report in national newspapers about a mother who was said to have tried for nine months to get back the heart of her son, aged 16, which had been removed without her permission.

MP's rebuff for assembly plan by SNP

By Our Political Correspondent

By 200 votes to 19 the Commons yesterday refused leave to Mr Gordon Wilson, Scottish National Party MP for Dundee, East, to introduce a Bill to establish an elected convention of Scotland which would draw up proposals for the government of Scotland by an elected assembly.

The Bill would also have provided for another referendum on the question of self-government for Scotland.

Those who voted in Mr Wilson's favour were: eight Liberals, Mr David Steel, Mr Jo Macleod, Mr David Gifford, Mr Alan Bell, Mr Gerald Howells, Mr David Penhaligon, Mr Stephen Ross and Mr Richard Wainwright; eight Labour members, Mr Andrew Bennett, Mr Dale Campbell-Savours, Mr Dennis Concanon, Mr Tom Ellis, Mr George Foulkes, Mr John Home Robertson, Mr David Lambie and Mr Tom Torney; two Scottish nationalists, Mr Wilson and Mr Donald Stewart; and one Ulster Unionist, Mr James Kilfedder.

The desirous vote for Mr Wilson is another setback for the Scottish nationalists who expected in this test of parliamentary opinion to gain much more support. The tellers were two Welsh nationalists, Mr Dafydd Thomas and Mr Dafydd Wigley.

Parliamentary report, page 14

Remand for six City policemen

Six City of London policemen were remanded on bail at Mansion House Justice-Room yesterday until April 29 on theft charges. The six, including five from Bishopsgate Police Station, were accused of stealing more than £2,200 of goods from the Austin Reed clothing shop in Fenchurch Street last Sunday.

They were Inspector Brian Deacon, Sergeant Stanley Isley, Acting Sergeant Frederick Jolley, Detective Constable Leslie Nugent, Detective Constable David Chapman and Police Constable Richard Burgess.

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Mr Ruskin Spear (left) ensuring that his portrait of the Prime Minister, "True Blue," is correctly placed for the Royal Academy's exhibition of his paintings, opening on Saturday.

Jail chaplain in 'brutality' dispute

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Canon Leslie Lloyd-Rees, the Chaplain General to the Prison Service, has withdrawn his co-operation from the Howard League for Penal Reform, its director, Mr Martin Wright, said yesterday.

The reason is a dispute over an extract from the prison chaplain's house-journal, *New Life*, which was published in the *League's News Letter*. The extract quoted a prison chaplain as saying he could do nothing about brutality he had witnessed in prison. Canon Lloyd-Rees had forbidden the league to use the extract.

Writing anonymously in *New Life*, a prison governor said: "Recently on a local radio station a chaplain, who used to be a part-time prison chaplain, discussed brutality that he had witnessed, but said that he could do nothing about it in a particular establishment."

A few months ago I met by chaplains of all denominations and asked the question: "What action would you take if you saw an inmate being abused in a physical or verbal sense?" I was surprised to find the answer was: "What can we do? We have to work with the inmates. I would like to ask of our chaplains: 'what action would you take?'"

The governor said he was writing anonymously so that his chaplains would not be embarrassed.

Mr Wright, who received a copy of *New Life* from an unofficial source, he could not name, said he had given a copy to the league and that he would have further copies. They were sent, but on the understanding that the extract should not be quoted without his agreement.

When Mr Wright pointed out that the original copy had come from an anonymous source, and that *New Life* might contain items of public interest, Canon Lloyd-Rees insisted that he would prefer non-publication.

Mr Wright says that Canon Lloyd-Rees added that publication by the league would make it difficult for him to continue to cooperate with it.

But the league's publications committee agreed that the extract should be used in the *News Letter*, which says that "a significant question" is raised by it.

Mr Wright says: "When it appeared, the chaplain general telephoned to say that since we published this extract from *New Life* without his permission he would withdraw his cooperation from the Howard League."

According to Mr Wright, the chaplains' loyalties are divided between the Home Office, their bishop, and the prisoner.

The Home Office said last night: "It seems that a misunderstanding has occurred in this instance and the Chaplain General will be writing to Mr Martin Wright."

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Two die, three hurt in explosion at rocket research station

From Arthur Osman
Kidderminster

Two workers were killed yesterday by an explosion at the Summerville rocket research station, on the outskirts of Kidderminster, which is run by Imperial Metal Industries (Kynoch) for the Ministry of Defence.

A woman, her small son and a woman neighbour living in houses on the perimeter of the station were treated in hospital for shock, but were able to leave later. Their homes were so severely damaged by blast that they were declared uninhabitable.

The body of one of the workers was thrown nearly 40 yards into the garden of one of the damaged houses.

The dead men were: Mr Reginald Hemming, aged 46, of Pitt Street, and Mr John Ernest Nock, aged 42, of Seymour Road, both Kidderminster. Both were married and each had two children.

An inquiry was started by the Ministry of Defence, and the Home Office.

The research station, which

is subject to the Official Secrets Act, was set up in 1951 to establish the capability for making cast doublebase solid propellant rocket motors in the United Kingdom.

The motors are used in a variety of guided missiles such as Sea Dart, Sea Slug, Swingfire and Vigilant. Many have been sold to defence forces throughout the world.

The motors also have civilian uses in satellite rockets. The station also manufactures nitroglycerine, which is a constituent of the solid propellant in the motors.

The explosion was the first fatal accident experienced by the station's 600 workers in 28 years. The establishment is claimed to be unique in western Europe for having all the design, engineering and technical disciplines required for the manufacture of solid motors on one site. That has given it a significant advantage over rivals and it is said to have achieved a high degree of technical competence. A range nearby in the Wyre Forest is used for testing rocket fuels.

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WEST EUROPE

Franco's supporters jailed for murder of Communist lawyers

Madrid, March 4.—A national court today sentenced three supporters of General Franco to prison terms totalling 459 years for the murder of five Communist lawyers in a Madrid office last year.

The conviction and sentencing was expected to bring violent protest from right-wing groups.

The first man, criminal lawyer José Fernández Carrizosa, aged 33, and Carlos García Juliá, aged 24, to a total of 193 years in prison each, and Francisco Albadalejo, a former transport and official accused of planning the killing, to 73 years.

It also convicted Leopoldo Jiménez, who supplied the guns for the killings, and sentenced him to four years. The court sentenced "Gloria Carrizosa", girl friend, Gloria Rivergude, to one year for helping to cover up the crime.

The sentences, to be served concurrently with a maximum term of 30 years, were three times the state prosecutor had asked for and only slightly less for the three principals than was demanded by private lawyers prosecuting for the families of the five victims.

The trial, which lasted seven days, ended last week. The defence had asked that the five be acquitted or granted amnesty for the killings, which took place on November 24, 1978, in a Madrid office. The Communist Party was then in power.

The defence lawyers, known as the "Punto Negro" (black point) group, which took public money, asked for the acquittal of the defendants. The court rejected the defence's arguments.

The court also rejected the defence's arguments that the killings were a political act. The court said the killings were a crime against the state.

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Party mood in savings banks shut by strike

From Ian Murray
Paris, March 4

The doors are firmly shut at 96 of the 146 savings banks in the Paris area. Pasted over the notices which usually give the opening times are handwritten signs saying: "Shut by strike action and under occupation".

The strike began on Friday and is hitting particularly the small savers and pensioners who traditionally use these banks for their small deposits. To help them the bank's management has installed an answer phone service to direct customers to one of the 50 branches still operating.

The strike has all the makings of a long struggle, which the unions are calling for. They say the strike going in the savings banks for three months at the end of 1976 in support of a claim for bonus payments.

As part of their action the unions have moved militants into the branches to occupy them. This afternoon, the civil court in Paris gave the management the right to call in the police if need be to evict them from their central Paris branch and headquarters after a delay for reflection of 12 hours.

A police spokesman takes place, will certainly add to the mounting bitterness of the struggle. At the moment, the inside of the occupied buildings looks as though a Christmas party was going on, with streamers, posters and banners on the walls, music in the air and small children running about.

The importance of the strike was underlined by M Pierre Drai, the senior vice-president of the civil court, in giving his judgment.

There was, he said, many consequences, not only for the safety of the savings in the banks but also for "the great number of people whom it affects more or less cruelly, such as account holders and savers drawing their salaries or pensions on their account books."

The cause of the dispute can be traced to the computer revolution. When the present 40-hour week working arrangement was established in 1971 it was agreed that 50 minutes was required to balance the books at the end of each day's trading. Computers have since 1978 cut the time required to 20 minutes.

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WEST EUROPE



Herr Willy Brandt, chatting with a fellow West German delegate at the European Socialist Congress in Luxembourg yesterday.

Backing for Britain as lamb truce fails

From Our Own Correspondent, Brussels, March 4

Attempts to call a truce in the "lamb war" between Britain and France collapsed here tonight because of the scale of French demands for EEC money to protect their sheep farmers against cheap lamb imports.

Only the Irish rallied to the support of the French, and Mr Peter Walker, Britain's Minister of Agriculture, claimed that he had "never experienced such a strong or emotional line-up against one member state."

Signor Giovanni Marcora, the Italian Agriculture Minister and chairman of the meeting, agreed with Mr Walker that the French curbs on lamb imports were "a blatant violation" of the Rome Treaty. He urged the European Commission to seek an injunction from the European Court of Justice ordering immediate abolition of the French controls.

Mr Brian O'Donnell, the Commissioner for Agriculture, confirmed later that he would be asking his fellow Commissioners at their weekly meeting here tomorrow to approve an approach to the court, adding that failure to do so would be "politically very bad."

Seven member states were prepared to accept a compromise whereby France would open its frontiers to lamb imports in return for subsidies paid out of EEC funds to compensate French sheep farmers for any resulting loss of income.

Other member states would also have got a share of these subsidies, amounting to a total

of £20m, which would have been available up to July 15. By then, it was hoped, the EEC would have agreed on permanent arrangements for the lamb market, one of the few areas still not covered by the common agricultural policy.

However, M. Pierre Méhaignerie, the French Minister, insisted that French sheep farmers' prices must also be supported above a minimum level by EEC-financed "intervention" buying in the same way as beef and butter. This was totally unacceptable to Britain, and was also rejected, if less vehemently, by everyone else except the Irish.

Food costs: The British Government believes that membership of the EEC has added between 5p and 10p in the pound to the cost of food in Britain (writes Our Agriculture Correspondent). That was disclosed yesterday with the publication of evidence to an investigation of the common agricultural policy (CAP) by the Lords Select Committee on the European Communities.

The committee said that it had been told in written evidence from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food that "the retail price of food in this country was some 8 to 10 per cent higher than it would otherwise be because of the CAP."

The estimate was based on the assumption that the United Kingdom could buy food at about the level of world market prices if it was not covered by the CAP. The ministry said that food prices had risen by 150 per cent between 1972 and 1978 while shop prices of other goods had risen by 155 per cent.

Dutch go on strike in wage policy

From Robert Schull, Amsterdam, March 4

About 500,000 people in the Netherlands took strike action today in protest against the Government's wage policies. The action coincides with the debate in Parliament tonight on a Bill which would allow the Government to freeze wages.

The action was organized by the country's biggest trade union, the Socialist Federation of the Dutch Trade Union Movement (FNV). The country's other main union, the Christian National Trade Union (CNV), although also opposed to the Government's policies, did not participate.

Postal services were affected as were the ports of Amsterdam and Rotterdam, and other industrial areas.

In Amsterdam some 30,000 FNV members held a mass meeting and later marched through the city. About 30,000 civil servants also joined in the protest.

Unique in the history of Dutch journalism was the strike by the Dutch National Press Agency (ANP) which was called off after two and a half hours when management threatened to close down the service completely.

A number of national centres will not be appearing, management having refused to print papers carrying predominantly strike news.

Radio and television went off the air for half an hour because of strike action by engineers while KLM Royal Dutch Airlines had to cancel five European flights because of action by ground staff.

OVERSEAS

Israel reacts angrily to criticisms of its settlement policy

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, March 4

A defiant Israeli Government today angrily rejected international criticism of its settlement policy in the occupied territories adopted during the 1977 war. It also denounced the French Government's decision to speak out for the first time in support of the Palestinians' right to self-determination.

The bitterness of the reaction reflected the growing feeling of international isolation among many leading Israeli politicians. Officials are convinced that a number of other European countries can be expected to follow France's lead on the Palestinian question.

At a five-hour session in Jerusalem, the coalition Cabinet voted unanimously to condemn last Saturday's United Nations Security Council resolution which called for the dismantling of all Jewish settlements in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and large areas of east Jerusalem.

Since 1967 more than 100 settlements have been built on occupied land and a number of high-rise suburbs constructed in the former Arab section of Jerusalem.

A strongly worded communiqué issued after the meeting reiterated the inalienable right of Jews to settle in the biblical land of Israel.

"This right is an integral factor of our national security," the communiqué asserted. It also claimed that there was no difference between the different residential quarters of Jerusalem, to which the ministers referred as "one city completely under Israeli sovereignty, our eternal capital in which free access is assured to members of all faiths to the Holy Places."

During the meeting Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, read out a personal letter from President Carter explaining how a "misunderstanding" had led to an American support of last week's United Nations vote. According to a number of ministers the explanation was treated with "scepticism".

Privately, many Cabinet members are deeply suspicious of President Carter. They believe that he decided to back track on the original vote because of the angry response of the Jewish lobby in America and the strong opposition quickly voiced by Senator Kennedy, his main rival for the Democratic nomination.

Today's communiqué said: "The support of the representative of the United States for the repugnant resolution of the Security Council gives rise to deep resentment and sharp protest among the people of Israel."

The controversial issue of permitting Jews to settle in the centre of Hebron, the second largest Arab town on the West Bank, was also discussed today. Mr Begin told ministers that "practical proposals" would be put before them at the next Cabinet session on Sunday. The proposals are expected to concern the principle of permitting Jewish settlement in the city agreed on February 17.

A number of ministers are known to have argued against the moving of Jews into the centre of the exclusively Arab city. But others are in favour of such a move, which is being canvassed by the right-wing group, Gush Emunim.

The postponement of a final decision until Sunday was seen as a further indication of the deep split inside the Cabinet on the issue. Among those understood to be against allowing Jewish families to move into Hebron at present are Mr Ezer Weizman, the Defence Minister and Mr Yigael Yadin, the Deputy Prime Minister.

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Dr Sakharov complains as scientists meet without him

Moscow, March 4.—The dissident Soviet physicist Dr Andrei Sakharov has complained that he was being deprived of the right to attend a meeting of the Soviet Academy of Sciences today at which the academy is expected to decide whether to expel him.

The fiancée of one of Dr Sakharov's sons gave Western journalists a statement from the Nobel Peace Prize winner in which he observed that taking part in general assemblies of the academy "is the right and duty of each member."

But when he asked to take part "the presidium of the academy... deprived me of that right and relieved me of the duty of being an academy member," the statement said.

The academy sent him a telegram yesterday "excusing him from attending the assembly here because of his

"absence from Moscow". Dr Sakharov, considered the father of the Soviet hydrogen bomb, was banished to the Soviet city of Gorky on January 22 because of his outspoken criticisms of Soviet restrictions on civil rights.

This morning, militiamen barred access to the Sakharovs' flat in Moscow where a press conference had been called. They said they were protecting Dr Sakharov's mother-in-law, Mrs Ruth Bonner, aged 80. Mrs Bonner said later that two officials of the Moscow prosecutor's office threatened her with being put on trial for associating with "foreigners and criminal elements."

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Soviet Academy of Sciences said the question of expelling Dr Sakharov was not on the agenda at its meeting—Agence France-Presse and Reuter.

World leaders launch plan for conservation

From Our Correspondent, Nairobi, March 4

National leaders in many countries, including the Duke of Edinburgh, are to launch tomorrow the world conservation strategy, a document compiled by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Wildlife Fund.

The document is the result of nearly five years of preparation, and is intended to stimulate a concerted approach to the management of living resources, ranging from wild game to forests, and to provide policy guidance on this to governments, conservationists and everyone involved in development.

Its aims are to maintain essential ecological processes and life support systems, to preserve genetic diversity and to ensure the sustainable utilization of species and ecosystems.

Mr Robert Schuller, the secretary general of the union, said the document was a "blueprint for the future" and that it was "a call to action for all nations and peoples."

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UN woman on trial in Poland on spy charge

Warsaw, March 4.—A Polish employee of the United Nations went on trial here today charged with spying for a Nato member state, an offence which carries a possible death penalty.

Observers were barred from the Warsaw military district court where Miss Alicja Wesolowska, aged 35, was being tried.

A terse report by the official news agency PAP said only that proceedings had opened and Miss Wesolowska was charged with spying for an undisclosed Nato state. Her friends in New York said she is accused of working for the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

She was arrested in Warsaw last August on her way from New York, where she worked for the United Nations, to take up a new post in Mongolia.

Poland ignored a request by Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, for permission to send an observer to the proceedings. The trial is expected to last two days.—Reuter.

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Next summit of Nine to be 'difficult'

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris, March 4

Mr Roy Jenkins, President of the European Commission, left a 75-minute meeting with Mr Raymond Barre, the French Prime Minister, here today saying that the next European Council meeting, planned to be "inevitably difficult."

Mr Jenkins said that today's meeting had not been "principally" about the sheepmeat argument between Britain and France, but that a whole range of European and French questions had been raised. "It was not a negotiation," he added.

In all events, he was no less optimistic after seeing M Barre than he was before the meeting.

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EEC sets £10m a year as aid for steel retirements

From Michael Hornsby, Brussels, March 4

Britain was told in Brussels today that up to £10m a year over three years could be available from the EEC Budget to finance the early retirement of British steel workers and thus help to mitigate the social impact of planned steel plant closures.

In talks at European Commission headquarters, Mr Adam Butler, junior minister at the Department of Industry, was also informed that to qualify for this aid the Government would have to give an assurance that a matching sum from the £450m allocated to the British Steel Corporation in the next financial year would be earmarked for early retirement schemes.

In talks with Herr Heik Vredeling and Viscount Etienne Davignon, the EEC Commissioners for Social and Industrial Affairs, Mr Butler was told that such an assurance was necessary under EEC rules which require that Community aid of this kind is matched pound for pound by national government expenditure.

Speaking afterwards at a press conference, Mr Butler said he foresaw no problems about giving this assurance. The Government would want to "look at the small print" of the Commission's proposal, but he was hopeful that it would prove acceptable and that the money would become available.

Mr Butler added that the money would be used to finance the retirement of steel workers at the age of 55. About 25,000, or 20 per cent of all the Steel Corporation's employees, are

above this age, a much higher percentage than in the rest of the European steel industry. Early retirement could thus account for half the planned redundancies of 52,000.

In talks in Brussels yesterday, Mr Robert Schuller, the secretary general of the union, said the possibility of retirement at the age of 50, but Mr Butler said today that any scheme for retirement below the age of 55 would be "far too expensive."

The Commission first put forward its proposal for mitigating the social consequences of redundancies in the EEC steel industry last May, but hitherto it has failed to win the approval of member states, including Britain.

Early retirement is only one of several work-sharing schemes envisaged by the Commission. Others include a reduction in overtime working, the introduction of an extra shift, a shorter working week, and longer annual holidays.

Mr Butler said it had not been clear before his talks here today that member states would be free to decide on which of these schemes they wished to spend EEC aid. This made the whole proposal much more attractive to Britain which did not regard work-sharing ideas in general as being likely to improve efficiency.

Mr Vredeling confirmed that Britain, because of the scale of its steel problem, could qualify for up to half the £20m a year which is envisaged would be available under the Commission's three-year scheme. But this would depend on the claims of other countries, in particular France.

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Breton nuclear protest a daily rite

From Ian Murray, Paris, March 4

Early in the morning, police take down the barricades built during the night on the access roads into Plogoff, the tiny township in Finistère, which is becoming the symbol of the anti-nuclear battle in France.

Since the end of January an inquiry has been proceeding into a project to build a 5,200-megawatt nuclear power station on the Rade de Brest, about the westernmost point in mainland France. It is a windswept, seaswept region, which up to now has been as remote from the nuclear age as it is possible to get in the industrialised world.

The inquiry is due to end its work on March 14, but over the course of the past month a regular protest has been established each day between

the anti-nuclear demonstrators and the officials charged with investigating the matter.

Six hundred extra police have been drafted into the area to control these daily demonstrations. Rocks are exchanged for tear-gas grenades at regular intervals. A helicopter, known to the demonstrators as "the mother hen," directs operations from above.

The target of the demonstrators each day is the group of vans—in Breton a sort of mobile extension of the Plogoff town hall—which set off with all their documents for the inquiry. Every day they win through, but only after forcing a way through anything up to 400 demonstrators, often with violent results.

At the moment nine demonstrators are awaiting trial on charges of obstructing the police for their part in last

Friday night's confrontation. This was more violent than usual, with a petrol bomb, among assorted items thrown at the police.

The arguments before the inquiry are not particularly new. The authorities emphasise the need to find suitable sites for building the nuclear power stations which are essential to France's energy programme. They point out, too, that the station will bring work to a traditionally depressed area.

The demonstrators tend to be very much local people. However, the publicity generated by the protests has started to attract the traditional revolutionary element which usually appears in France whenever there is a chance to confront the police.



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RHODESIA



Dancing their delight, supporters celebrate outside the party office in Salisbury after Mr Robert Mugabe's triumph.

Mr Mugabe presents the face of moderation

From Nicholas Ashford Salisbury, March 4

Anyone listening to Mr Robert Mugabe, leader of Zanu (PF) and Prime Minister-designate of Zimbabwe, when he addressed a press conference this morning after his party's landslide victory in the Southern Rhodesian election would have found it hard to believe that this was a man whose name had struck so much fear and hatred into the hearts of the country's white community.

Sitting in the garden of his suburban Salisbury house surrounded by happy party officials he spoke in soothing and moderate terms about the sort of society he wanted to see established in Zimbabwe.

It would be a place where people of all races could live happily together. There would be no discrimination against whites despite the recent history of racial conflict. Nor would there be any victimizations or nationalizations of private property. Although Zanu (PF) was committed to socialism there would be a place for efficient private businesses and private farmers.

The country's foreign policy

would be one of strict non-alignment. It would even strive to maintain reasonable relations with its large white-dominated neighbour on the south bank of the Limpopo. "Our government will be fair and just and will ensure that the principles that we fought and died for are sacrosanct," he said.

Since his return to Rhodesia last month after almost five years in exile, Mr Mugabe has sought to project himself as a man of moderation. His party's manifesto was toned down and all references to radicalism and revolution were removed.

All this contrasts sharply with the image many white Rhodesians held of a man who was engaged in a revolutionary struggle in order to impose an authoritarian Marxist system on the country.

Whether Rhodesian whites have changed their opinions during the five weeks since his return remains to be seen. Some Mr Mugabe has for long been the enigma of the Rhodesian nationalist movement, partly because he spent so long either in detention or in exile. He has none of the flamboyance of

Mr Joshua Nkomo, his partner in the Patriotic Front guerrilla alliance, nor the intellectual arrogance of the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole, the founder of Zanu who was deposed by Mr Mugabe four years ago. Nor has he had the expensive public relations campaign to improve his image, as did Bishop Abel Muzorewa, the defeated leader of the UANC.

Despite the moderate stance he has adopted since his return, Mr Mugabe has not altered his basic political philosophy which was based on Marxism.

When he embarked on the guerrilla war in Rhodesia which culminated in the Lancaster House agreement and his election victory, Mr Mugabe regarded the struggle as a means of overthrowing not just white minority rule but also the capitalist society the whites represented. His vision of establishing an egalitarian society in Zimbabwe remains unchanged.

What has changed is the way in which such a vision can be attained. Having abandoned the armed struggle in favour of the ballot box, he has realized that the process of establishing a socialist state in Zimbabwe will take longer than he envisaged

and will require compromises on his side if further conflict is to be avoided.

Mr Mugabe's recently-found pragmatism derives in large measure from President Machel of Mozambique, who supported him during the years of guerrilla warfare and who has been an important political influence on him.

President Machel, whose own country has suffered severely as a result of the Rhodesian war, was largely responsible for Mr Mugabe's decision to go through with the Lancaster House agreement.

He has subsequently emphasized to Mr Mugabe the need to avoid any actions which could lead to an early white exodus or renewed conflict between rival black factions. He pointed out the dangers of an internal white coup or intervention by South Africa should Mr Mugabe try to move too fast.

Mr Mugabe is a quietly spoken, neatly-dressed man who is intellectually head and shoulders above his black nationalist rivals. He is an aesthetic figure who does not drink or smoke and smiles only rarely.

S Africa starts relationship on a threatening note

From Ray Kennedy Johannesburg, March 4

Mr Pieter Botha, the South African Prime Minister, today set the tone for relations with the new black state of Zimbabwe with a warning to Mr Robert Mugabe not to overstep the mark.

He said: "Any neighbour which allows its territory to be used for attacks on or the undermining of South Africa and its security will have to face the full force of the republic's strength".

Possibly there was no country more surprised by the election results than South Africa, Rhodesia's white neighbour. And there can be little doubt that Mr Botha was deplorably badly advised as to the way things were going there.

South Africa hedged its bets on Bishop Muzorewa, not gaining an overall majority, but winning sufficient support to be

in the forefront of a coalition which would exclude Mr Mugabe. This was based on assessments prepared by the bright young men of the Department of Foreign Affairs and passed on to the Prime Minister by Mr R. F. Botha, the Foreign Minister.

It is certain that there will be bitter recriminations within the Cabinet. Apart from anything else, it will damage the Foreign Minister's own political position as a man who is split in ideological battle with the hard-line leader of the Transvaal Nationalists, Mr Andries Treurnicht.

It could also have a marked effect on the outcome of negotiations which began in Cape Town today between the South African Government and a team of senior United Nations officials about the future of South-West Africa (Namibia) and the establishment of a demilitarized zone.

Troops home like heroes

By Henry Stanhope Defence Correspondent

The first of the British troops who have been monitoring the ceasefire in Southern Rhodesia returned home yesterday to something of a heroes' welcome from Mr Francis Pym, the Defence Secretary.

The country's proud of them, he said. "You have been admired not only in Britain and Rhodesia but all over the world. You have the deep appreciation of everyone for the contribution you have made to the national progress towards the successful political outcome of extremely long-standing problems."

For some of their colleagues

the job is not yet over. As reported in *The Times* last week, a member of the British troops in Zimbabwe for a little longer on liaison between the Patriotic Front (PF) and the security forces, and to help train PF guerrillas for service in the country's armed forces.

It is also expected that a small contingent of fresh troops may be sent there to continue this work should Mr Mugabe request further British help.

Most of the British troops, who formed the bulk of the 1,400 Commonwealth Monitoring Group, will return, however, during the next day or two, flying from Salisbury in RAF VC-10s.

Carrington welcome but muted official reaction

Continued from page 1

the problems of Rhodesia, said that this was an exemplary exercise in democratic procedure.

If "togetherness", the word used by Mr Mugabe about the future of the country, was to be the touchstone that the new government would be applying to its policies, there was hope for a multiracial state in the new Zimbabwe, added Lord Carrington for the Labour front bench.

Dr David Owen, the former Foreign Secretary, speaking in the absence of Mr Peter Shore in Rhodesia, paid a warm tribute to Lord Carrington for making the ceasefire, and the election possible.

He paid tribute, also, to the stewardship of Mr Mugabe in making clear that he wanted the confidence of the people of all races and colour. Dr Owen endorsed the view that the election was conducted freely, and fairly.

Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes: Lord Carrington sent a personal message of congratulation to Mr Mugabe on his sweeping electoral victory. But official reaction was in general rather muted.

Although the Foreign Office was expecting Zanu to win the most seats, the margin of its success came as a surprise. Lord Carrington and Mr Mugabe did not exactly hit it

off during the Lancaster House conference. Zanu officials regarded the Foreign Secretary with a mixture of resentment and mistrust, feeling that he was continually pushing the Patriotic Front against its declared interests. On their side, British ministers formed a considerable respect for Mr Mugabe's intellectual talents, without ever getting on close terms in their personal dealings.

The fact that the election result is so clear-cut, however, will enable the British Government to effect the handover of the first tasks for Lord Carrington is to consider the appointment of a high commissioner in Salisbury. Mr Nick Elam, the "number two", has been there since Lord Soames went out as Governor. Discussion of wider and extremely important questions such as economic aid to Zimbabwe will have to await installation of the new government.

Mr Shridath Ramphal, the Commonwealth Secretary General, said yesterday that the election result had brought to the end a long night for the people of Zimbabwe.

Kenya, which had provided a contingent of troops for the monitoring force in Rhodesia, was among other African countries to express warm congratulations to Mr Mugabe and wish him success.

OVERSEAS

Oranges freeze on trees in Florida

From Michael Leapman Miami, March 4

The radio announcer sounded startled. "I don't believe it," he cried. "There's steam rising out of Biscayne Bay."

It was happening because the temperature in this tropical southern resort, which had never previously dropped below 40°F in March, was yesterday near freezing point. The sea was warmer, giving the effect of hot bath in a cold bath-room.

It came as a dreadful shock to this city, whose weather is its livelihood. Although most of the nation had been in the grip of a deep freeze, nearly a 100 miles to the south, Florida anything under 60°F is viewed as cruel and unusual punishment.

It is, therefore, not equipped to cope. Buildings, though supplied with electric heat, are often inadequately heated. In the shops, inquiries about overcoats and woollies are met with uncomprehending blankness.

Its residents are retired people who come to spend the winter of their years in the city of perpetual summer. They had to delve into the recesses of their wardrobes for sadly dated winter gear, unworn since they moved south. Sun-seeking visitors who had left their furs at home did the best they could with raincoats turned up at the collar or insubstantial evening stoles pressed into emergency daytime use.

On the spectacular sand of Miami Beach all year round, you usually have to pick your way through row after row of fast-tanning bodies. Yesterday only a few ventured in track suits, sweaters, or hooded ski jackets.

A young couple from Kalamazoo, Michigan, said: "We spend most of the day playing cards." Others whiled away the afternoon expensively at the bar of the Jewish Fountain. The braver ones tried the rigours of its beachside café, where boyboys sported thick leather gloves.

One or two managed a brief spell in the sun. "We found a spot in the tree for the day," boasted a middle-aged New Jersey couple on a three-day flying visit.

That talk is reminiscent of Eastbourne in an English August. The difference is that British resorts expect bad weather and provide alternative amusements: arcades or tea dances in the palm court. In Miami, there is nothing doing until evening except the beach.

The cold snap was a longer-term disaster for some. Growers of tropical fruit, such as citrus fruit, reported serious losses. Oranges froze on the tree, prompting one or two jokes about ready-frozen orange juice.

Fewer were in a mood to laugh, however, although by tomorrow it will be back in the comfortable 70s, the people of Miami will not quickly forget nor forgive this meteorological treachery.

US promise of protection attacked by Gulf leader

Abu Dhabi, March 4.—Shaikh Zaid bin Sultan al-Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), today attacked American promises to protect the Gulf by force and said United States troops would be better sent to Afghanistan.

Shaikh Zaid said in an interview with French television reported by the official Emirates news agency: "All is well in the Gulf and any other forces, American or any other forces, are not needed for the protection of the Gulf region."

If America wants to dispatch force it could send them to the burping invaded regions of Afghanistan. That is where the foreign aggression is, not here in the Gulf.

Last month President Carter said he was sending 200 Harjans (formerly Unsubtainable) and the need of the Congress Party to secure their votes in the state elections. The electricity arrived as promised by the Harjans (formerly Unsubtainable) and the need of the Congress Party to secure their votes in the state elections.

Electricity came to the big house thanks to the village's Harjans (formerly Unsubtainable) and the need of the Congress Party to secure their votes in the state elections.

Soon, however, the electricity came and dismantled the Harjans' street switch; it was turned off and on from the market town. Then as the bulbs were out the lights went off in the Harjans' own quarter. "So now it's only benefited them a group of Harjans' women, returning from fetching water, pitchers on their heads, shouted indignantly one morning before the big house was stirring. For the electricity continued, unintermitted, to the big house. The village I stayed in was

Massachusetts primary turns into a horse race for both parties

From David Cross Boston, March 4

The sky was a deep blue and the sun shone brightly in several days here today as Massachusetts voters came out in record numbers to cast their ballots in the first presidential primary in a large state this year.

It was happening because the temperature in this tropical southern resort, which had never previously dropped below 40°F in March, was yesterday near freezing point. The sea was warmer, giving the effect of hot bath in a cold bath-room.

It came as a dreadful shock to this city, whose weather is its livelihood. Although most of the nation had been in the grip of a deep freeze, nearly a 100 miles to the south, Florida anything under 60°F is viewed as cruel and unusual punishment.

It is, therefore, not equipped to cope. Buildings, though supplied with electric heat, are often inadequately heated. In the shops, inquiries about overcoats and woollies are met with uncomprehending blankness.

Its residents are retired people who come to spend the winter of their years in the city of perpetual summer. They had to delve into the recesses of their wardrobes for sadly dated winter gear, unworn since they moved south. Sun-seeking visitors who had left their furs at home did the best they could with raincoats turned up at the collar or insubstantial evening stoles pressed into emergency daytime use.

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A young couple from Kalamazoo, Michigan, said: "We spend most of the day playing cards." Others whiled away the afternoon expensively at the bar of the Jewish Fountain. The braver ones tried the rigours of its beachside café, where boyboys sported thick leather gloves.

One or two managed a brief spell in the sun. "We found a spot in the tree for the day," boasted a middle-aged New Jersey couple on a three-day flying visit.

That talk is reminiscent of Eastbourne in an English August. The difference is that British resorts expect bad weather and provide alternative amusements: arcades or tea dances in the palm court. In Miami, there is nothing doing until evening except the beach.

The cold snap was a longer-term disaster for some. Growers of tropical fruit, such as citrus fruit, reported serious losses. Oranges froze on the tree, prompting one or two jokes about ready-frozen orange juice.

Fewer were in a mood to laugh, however, although by tomorrow it will be back in the comfortable 70s, the people of Miami will not quickly forget nor forgive this meteorological treachery.

Tehran militants refuse to let UN see hostages

Tehran, March 4.—The United Nations commission investigating Iranian grievances against the Shah will not be allowed to see the hostages in the United States Embassy here, the militants holding the embassy sent a message to the commissioners denying their access, Tehran radio said today.

The statement said the job of the commission was to investigate "the crimes of the Shah and crimes committed by the United States against Iran", and had nothing to do with the hostages, the broadcast said.

The refusal was reported in an urgent item inserted into the official Tehran radio's 8.30 pm news bulletin. The broadcast said the student position was contained in a statement sent to the commission at its headquarters in the Hilton Hotel.

Earlier, the Iranian Government had rejected a two-restrictive the conditions laid down by the students for allowing the United Nations commission to see the embassy hostages.

The student representatives

ahead of Mr Ronald Reagan, the former Governor of California and darling of the party's right wing.

But the latest opinion polls, for what they are worth, have shown a steady erosion in his support over the past few days.

Before the first for Vermont, and then the South early yesterday Mr Bush conceded that he was nervous about today's outcome. The main problem for him was the strong challenge mounted in Massachusetts by Mr John Anderson, a member of the House of Representatives from Illinois.

The letter has become something of a cult figure in the state, particularly among young voters, by attacking the ideological right wing and calling for new solutions to old problems.

Mr Bush, who was brought up in Massachusetts and whose family still lives here, also fears that a more modest slice of the state's moderate Republican voters may plump for Mr Howard Baker, the unassuming leader of the Republican Party in the Senate.

Mr Baker has not campaigned too energetically here, but he could cut into Mr Bush's vote in the tiny neighbouring state of Vermont, which is also holding a primary today.

Whatever the outcome, Mr Reagan was sitting pretty. About one-third of the Massachusetts Republicans are staunch conservatives and after his victory in New Hampshire he was expected to pick up some extra votes today.

The re-election aspirations of President Carter could not be much affected by the Massachusetts vote either, although there

are 111 delegates at stake. Mr Carter has never expected to do particularly well in Southern states. Kennedy's home state and he would doubtless be happy with anything between 20 and 30 per cent of today's Democratic vote.

Senator Kennedy, on the other hand, who has suffered four consecutive defeats at the hands of the President, has little to gain and all to lose. He could not win by a substantial margin in the state which has kept him in the Senate for the past 17 years where could he do well? The pundits would undoubtedly ask.

Actually aware of this problem, the senator cancelled earlier plans to campaign in the South to put in two days of hectic campaigning in the state earlier this week. Yesterday he was outside the General Electric plant in the nearby town of Lynn at 6 am to greet workers arriving in his own state. He spent the rest of his time also preaching to those sectors of the community—the black and Irish and Italian-American minorities—who would normally campaign even in his own state. One suggested that he might get less than 50 per cent of the Democratic vote.

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Afghans divided even in unity

From Our Correspondent Islamabad, March 4

Five groups of Afghan insurgents have formed the Islamic Alliance for the Liberation of Afghanistan. However, the insurgents are not united. The Islamic Alliance (Afghanists), refused to join the alliance after a month long discussion.

The difference between Hizb Islami and other groups, the alliance convenor said, was over the Islamic Alliance. The Islamic Alliance should make decisions by a two-thirds basis.

However, it seems that a present even the alliance group are not unreservedly united are maintaining their separate identities. More than anything else the personalities leading the various groups and their individual interests appear to have stood in the way of complete unity.

The Revolutionary Council, which has 10 members, is its various committees, which are to include a refugee committee and a military committee. The groups which have joined hands are National Islamic Group, Afghan National Front, Jamiatul Islam Afghanistan, Hizb Islami (Khalid Group) and Tarakatul Inqilab Islami Afghanistan.

The leader of Jamiatul Islam, who has been described as the most moderate, observed bitterly that the world was shamefully watching the annihilation of the Afghan people as if it was a football match.

Chinese to bring back the Bible

Peking, March 4.—The Bible in Chinese is about to be reprinted in this country, where it has not been published since 1957, the New China news agency reported in an account of a recent meeting in Shanghai of Protestant church leaders and the Communist regime.

The meeting also decided to reactivate church administrative and reopen theological seminaries.—Agence France Presse.

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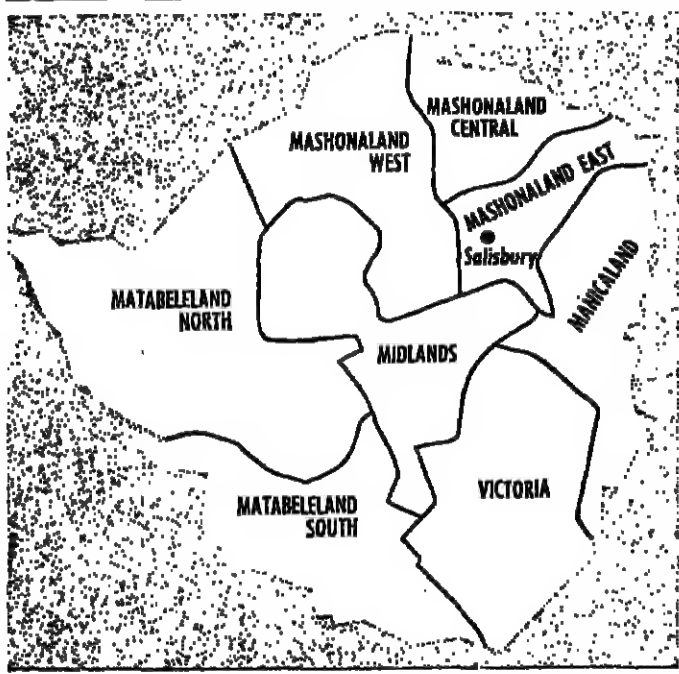
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Provincial results

MATABELELAND NORTH (11 seats)				
Party	Votes	% total vote	Seats	
NDU	1,837	0.586		
NFZ	1,283	0.409		
PF	4,992	1.591		
UANC	19,608	6.249		
Zanu	18,843	5.888		
Zanu (PF)	263,972	84.125	11	
ZDP	5,251	1.673		
Total valid votes	313,786			
Spoilt papers	7,334			
Total poll	321,120			

MATABELELAND SOUTH (10 seats)				
Party	Votes	% total vote	Seats	
NDU	1,218	0.695		
NFZ	1,086	0.621		
PF	3,947	2.256		
UANC	14,985	8.586		
UNFP	914	0.523		
Zanu	3,671	2.099		
Zanu (PF)	148,995	83.842	10	
ZDP	2,446	1.398		
Total valid votes	174,930			
Spoilt papers	4,782			
Total poll	179,712			

MASHONALAND CENTRAL (six seats)				
Party	Votes	% total vote	Seats	
NDU	1,218	0.695		
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ZDP	2,446	1.398		
Total valid votes	174,930			
Spoilt papers	4,782			
Total poll	179,712			

MASHONALAND EAST (16 seats)				
Party	Votes	% total vote	Seats	
NDU	2,359	0.373		
NFZ	1,668	0.264		
PF	28,805	4.555		
UANC	73,237	11.896		
UNFP	4,593	0.722		
Zanu	9,499	1.502		
Zanu (PF)	506,813	80.452	14	
ZDP	4,466	0.706		
Total valid votes	632,440			
Spoilt papers	8,741			
Total poll	641,181			

MASHONALAND WEST (eight seats)				
Party	Votes	% total vote	Seats	
NDU	2,211	0.781		
NFZ	2,589	0.915		
PF	37,888	13.391		
UANC	28,728	10.454		
Zanu	4,668	1.857		
Zanu (PF)	203,567	71.949	8	
ZDP	3,261	1.153		
Total valid votes	282,932			
Spoilt papers	8,844			

OVERSEAS

Ohira drive to assert Japanese presence fails in Middle East

From Our Correspondent, Tokyo, March 4

Efforts to assert Japan's presence in the Middle East by Mr. Sunao Onoda, the former Foreign Minister, who is completing his tour of the area as a special envoy of Mr. Masayoshi Ōhira, the Prime Minister, seem to have been frustrated.

At least two of his objectives have been unsuccessful. One was to see Mr. Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, and establish a de facto formal relationship between Japan and the PLO. The other was to offer Japanese mediation in the Arab-Israeli dispute.

In either case, reliable sources have indicated, the Japanese Government has been less than enthusiastic. In spite of Mr. Onoda's positive desire to seek talks with Mr. Arafat, it was reported that the Foreign Ministry had been reluctant to do so because of deference to Washington.

It said that since Mr. Onoda's talks with Mr. Arafat would amount to establishing official contacts with the PLO and a virtual departure from a pro-Israel policy, the Government would not do so.

Foreign Ministry sources were reported to have pointed out that such a move at this particular moment would further isolate Washington which has been criticised at Japan's trade relations with the United States in which Japan's chronic surplus has been a major factor.

Historically, Washington is known to have brought pressure to bear on Japan's desire to seek deeper direct relationships with the Middle East which supplies the bulk of Japan's energy needs.

While Mr. Onoda, during his period as Prime Minister, made extensive tours to supplier countries across the world, he significantly stayed out of the Middle East.

It was widely speculated then that the United States Government, notably Dr. Henry Kissinger, then Secretary of State, was against Middle East tours by Japanese prime ministers.

In fact, no Japanese prime minister has ever visited the Middle East except for a short tour by Mr. Takeo Fukuda in 1978.

The Foreign Ministry was also reported to have reacted negatively to Mr. Onoda's recommendations that Japan play host to meetings between President Carter and President Hafiz al-Assad of Syria.

In so far as the Iranian issue was concerned, Mr. Onoda cancelled his scheduled visit to Tehran because of the "unavailability" of President Bani-Sadr. Whatever the given reason for the cancellation of the visit, it was speculated in Tokyo that the Japanese Government was against "hitting what Japan cannot chew".

Backing Pakistan: Japan today decided to use its main foreign policy instrument, its economic aid, to support Pakistan against the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. It also decided to cancel or refuse to implement aid for the Kabul Government.

Foreign Ministry sources said Mr. Onoda would pledge aid worth 32,000 million yen (\$500 million) to support Islamabad tomorrow.

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Detective's body found with bullet wounds

Hongkong, March 4.—Police-

men who discovered the body of a Scottish detective in his flat in Hongkong also found a note asking that his family should be told that his death from five bullets had been an accident.

Chief Inspector Michael Quinn said he had gone to the flat on January 15 to arrest Dr. Inspector John MacLennan, aged 30, from Nigg in the Scottish Highlands, on eight charges of gross indecency.

Before discovering the body he had found a note scrawled on an envelope which read: "Please, please tell my family that this was an accident and I was a good police officer".

The signature was not clear. Mr. Quinn then forced open the bedroom door and found the body of Mr. MacLennan.

There were four bullet wounds in the chest and one in the left side just above the waist. There were bloodstains and powder burns in the dead man's pullover, and a 38 police revolver was by his feet. Mr. Quinn said he had formed the impression it was a case of suicide.

Asked by Mr. Bernard Downey, representing Mr. MacLennan's parents, who live in Cononbridge, Rothbury, about suggestions that the dead officer had been bound to death by the Special Investigating Unit, Mr. Quinn denied being biased in connection with the case.

Mr. David Leonard, the Coroner, ruled inadmissible a question from Mr. Downey about whether Mr. MacLennan's treatment by the Hongkong force had been influenced by knowledge that he possessed about senior police officers in the colony.

—Rout.

Wriggle and Biff

The 1979 Kate Greenaway

Medal was won by Janet and Allan Ahlberg for their rhyming picture book *Each Peach Pear Plum* (Kestrel, £2.95) and they celebrated the event by publishing a modest but lively narrative work called *The Worm Book* (Granada, £1.25).

It is 32 pages are replete with facts useful to worm-hunters ("try not to let them know you are coming") and to those keeping worms as pets ("a converted glove makes a cosy worm home") and there is an invaluable "Short History of the Worm" and a section on "Worms and their World", which includes a picture of the rare Borneo Dog Worm in its kennel. An unusually well-researched contribution to modern biological studies for younger youth.

Mr. Ahlberg also appears as the author of six little books in a series called "Happy Families" (Kestrel, £1.95 each; Puffin paperbacks, 60p each). These probably owe a debt to the effervescent Dr. Seuss, who pioneered the application of slapstick to the droll face of education.

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Children's Books



Next week one of the blithest picture books of the year will be published: Quentin Blake's ballad of Mr Magnolia—who had only one boot, but at least had a trumpet that goes rooty-toot etc. etc. (Cape, £3.50). To celebrate publication, an exhibition of art work for the book, plus other Quentin-Blake material, will be on show at Illustrators Art, 16a D'Arbury Street, W1 from 13 March to 5 April.

Brian Alderson

The Penguin/Times Picture Book Prizes

The Times today announces a competition to discover new talent in the making of children's picture books. The competition is being organized in conjunction with Kestrel Books and Puffin Books (the children's hardback and paperback imprints of Penguin Books) and it will be open to anyone in the United Kingdom and Eire who has not previously had a children's picture book published, or accepted for publication. There will be a first prize of £500, together with guaranteed publication by Kestrel and Puffin and an advance against royalties of £500 (to be split 50-50 in the event of joint authorship). There will also be a second prize of £200 and a third prize of £100. The judges reserve the right not to award a first prize.

The panel of judges will be chaired by Patrick Hardy, Editorial Director of Penguin Young Books and it will include the Illustrator Quentin Blake and Brian Alderson, the Children's Books Editor of *The Times*. The judges will be looking for picture books for children from three to eight in particular, but are willing to consider material suitable for a wider range of ages. They will be looking for an original text that shows care and imagination in its use of words, and has illustrations which consistently match the nature and subject matter of the story. Good pacing and balance of words and pictures is also expected.

Since all work submitted for the competition will have to conform to a series of detailed specifications, candidates must obtain a copy of the Competition Rules. These will be sent to all applicants sending a s.a.e. marked "Picture Book Competition" to Penguin Young Books, 536 King's Road, London, SW10. The Rules include a full list of the competition judges and details on the submission of entries between 18 August and 30 September.

Look Back

Among those with an enthusiasm for getting ideas about conservation through to children Victor Neuburg is notable as a writer who is able to find a host of curious things that go on around us. His first book on the subject, *What We See Today* (Oxford, £1.75) was followed last year by an attractive paperback, *History Hunter* (Beaver, 65p), in which he shows how children can "get in touch with the past" by looking at its scattered remnants from Stonehenge to Southend Pier.

Laxton to Depford. Now this laudable approach has been adopted by another writer, Kenneth Hudson, in two handsome picture books *Farm Furniture* and *Street Furniture* (Bodley Head, £2.95 each). Working closely with the photographer Anna Nicholls, Mr. Hudson uses pictures as a basis for explanations about local objects that most of us pass every day without so much as a glance. Both books prompt the reader to further investigations, so it's a pity that they don't give some guide to further reading.

Frank Adams

Who Goes There

Terrance Dicks: Doctor Who and the Invasion of Time: Doctor Who and the Underworld: Doctor Who and the Brain of Morbius (W. H. Allen, £3.75 each, and £2.50).

"Look out!" they cry to one another. "Are you all right?"—a cry common to every television programme, it seems, except the News. Of course, they are not all right. Something extremely nasty is crawling out of the woodwork and will shortly get them—except that it is now time to move over to *Jim Will Fix It*.

The lack of the alarming sight of Jim, fixing it, also provides a lack of dramatic tension. Terrance Dicks has a way of transferring the Dr. Who tales to the printed page. The programme relies very heavily on special effects, on the Doctor and his female sidekick, and only lastly on the words.

Terrance Dicks, unfortunately, sticks rather close to the

script. "Affirmative ion drive" may be all very well as dialogue on the screen, but pages of nonfunctioning space ships are a dreadful bore. Even the Doctor's famous ad lib come over rather flatly—though I enjoyed K9, the computer dog being offered, as an alternative, dog biscuits or bar of chocolate. The beautiful bearings. Leela, the beautiful savage, is extremely tiresome (even disintegrated in print (in *Doctor Who and the Underworld*) and we see the last of her, thank heavens, in *Doctor Who and the Invasion of Time*, on the Doctor's home planet, of Gallifrey.

Junior Doctor Who is aimed at the 5 to 8-year-olds, and the Brain of Morbius is a particularly gruesome one about a head transplant for a brain which has been marinating in a tank of some kind of nourishing soup until a suitable humanoid came along. With a shudder one would have to wonder what the more ambitious of our hospitals are doing. Just right for the little ones, and it has some really unlikeable illustrations to go with it.

With a wheezing, growling sound, this reader vanished.

Philippa Toomey

Goodbye Swot Hello Friend

The Oxford Junior Companion to Music, by Michael Hurd. (Oxford, £9.95).

Percy Scholes's original *Oxford Junior Companion to Music* (1954) was for its time a model of what such things should be: lucid, scholarly, never for one moment either talking down or taking the easy conclusion that an impudent musical concept is too difficult to be explained to "what interested young reader". It was, though, in features and stance, recognizably a child of its great and lovable parent, the *Oxford Companion to Music* itself, and if good reference books leave one with images, not of their presumed readers, the portrait painted by the first *OJCM* was of a likeable swot, hungry for facts and incessantly inquisitive about music, prepared to work hard at studying it, but readily accepting his elders' and better's conventional view of the

boundaries of the art: music is that which is performed in Western concert-halls, opera-houses and churches (before an audience, one occasionally suspected, that was predestined, mainly English, middle-class and Anglican).

The most un-Scholesian attributes of Michael Hurd's second edition (and it is a second thorough revision; virtually none of the original text remains) are the profusion of illustrations—nearly a thousand of them, in colour and monochrome—and its readiness to admit other musical cultures. Mr. Hurd is slightly cautious about this (Indian music is considered, not Chinese or Japanese) but his caution is usually sensibly judicious: the Beatles are included ("what distinguishes them from other groups is the quality of their music") but the Stones are mentioned only in passing; Scott Joplin but not Janis; Parker and Gillespie but not Charlie Christian.

There is nothing trendy in this new inclusiveness, nor any attempt to wheedle the reluctant reader. Mr. Hurd's criteria for selection (of Roger Quilter is, indeed, why not Paul McCartney?) are admirably consistent; his coverage of contemporary music in partic-

ular (for much of which Dr. Scholes could not disguise his wry distrust) is excellently balanced. Nor is Hurd any less skilful than Scholes at unravelling knotty technicalities. I suspect that many adults, even, will find that *OJCM* 2 becomes the first book they reach for when seeking a comprehensible definition of sorhythm, agogic accent, or of sorhythm counterpoint. Most of the illustrations, too (apart from a few tiny and unrecognisable pencil sketches of composers) are clear, functional and inquiry-provoking. The demonstrations of things (in the case of instruments, sensibly classified by type—diaphones, chording phones, etc.) are especially good; the music-type examples are plentiful and well-chosen. It is, indeed, an outstandingly attractive book to look at and to use.

Michael Oliver

Whisky, land mines and diplomacy in jungle village.

Khmer Rouge looking for friends

From Our Correspondent, Siem Reap, March 4

If the wandering Government of Kampuchea, driven out of Phnom Penh 18 months ago, has a secret ally, it is here in the jungle village of Siem Reap.

The secret location is not mentioned in the invitation to the Khmer Rouge's secret headquarters. It can be guessed, however, that the village is a safe haven for the Khmer Rouge, who are not far from the borders of Thailand, Cambodia and Laos.

The Khmer Rouge leaders, who consider the legitimate Government of Kampuchea in the eyes of much of the world, have arrived here in a leading role. They have brought with them a victory and defeat, death and starvation.

In their solitude, far from the corridors of power, they have concluded that, in their own words, "We cannot live alone."

As Mr. Khieu Samphan, the President and Prime Minister, said during a long interview, "For survival we need all peace and harmony, and we need people."

It is a curious and perilous situation in public relations. The Vietnamese Army is less than 20 miles away and sometimes comes much closer, and yet having guests stay here in what could be a remote holiday camp.

Hostility is a genuine, thoughtful and well-organised guest house made of bamboo, grass and banana leaves, with built-in beds, pillows, blankets and

mosquito net and fresh fruit on a covered plate on a bedside table.

On the veranda fresh flowers had been placed in bamboo containers. There were incense-burners filled with hot water and purified iced water brought from Thailand.

Each house had its own bath enclosure with unlit candles, soap and clean towels. Morse signals from the radio hut exchanged messages with outlying military units were the only reminder of war.

As dusk fell on the jungle here, a green-tinted light appeared with a ray of Scotch whisky, ice and soda. There was more of that after a six-course dinner presided over by Mr. Khieu Samphan and his

ministers. When an explosion shattered the night, Mr. Khieu Samphan said it was a land mine problem set off by an animal. Bears and tigers can still be seen in this district.

A map of land mines and booby traps surrounded the house. Large rocks were balanced in trees and an intruder stepping the wrong way would dislodge them.

Two new villages beyond the headquarters, accommodated 3,000 civilians and about 500 soldiers who were several small camps. Their green uniforms were so new that their original creases were still visible but by contrast their Chinese weapons appeared old and battle-worn.

Most of the civilians are women who grow food, make houses from bamboo and other materials and can find, read and try to educate the children.

Children go to the small schoolhouse in the village. They also work in the vegetable gardens and sharpen bamboo strips for booby traps.

The hospital had one quali-

fied doctor and six orderlies and some 20 patients suffering from malaria and cerebral malaria, which attacks the brain. Most of the medical supplies had come from China and there were also some from the Italian Red Cross.

A small export trade in teak and other wood, and in a tree nut from which strychnine is made, still goes on between this area and importers across the border in Thailand. It provides some foreign exchange, one of the ministers said.

The Kampuchean village here seemed well-nourished. The children seemed healthy, noisy and energetic, only the odd one showing signs of malnutrition. Neither civilians nor soldiers displayed the marks of deprivation which marks Khmer Rouge supporters in Thai refugee camps.

During a rally addressed by the Khmer Rouge ministers children ran around and some adults chanted together, singing their leaders' speeches.

A visitor is forced to wonder what these men, accused of the most terrible crimes, can now offer their people and what they are expecting for themselves. They seem to believe that their new policy of democracy and respect for human rights will win them acceptance.

Otherwise their hopes appear to centre on holding out against a growing Vietnamese offensive until the monsoon rains in two months.

Their own offensive is on the diplomatic front. Both President Khieu Samphan and Minister Sary, his Foreign Minister, said that they feared attempts would be made later in the year to take their seat at the United Nations away from them. It is fair to say that they hope the friends they are trying to make here in the jungle will help them to prevent that happening.

They will agree to meetings in Panmunjom.

Mr. Lee Dong-Bok, the spokesman for the South Korean delegation, speaking to reporters after talks, hinted that the South might take a way out of this issue. He said that the Seoul Government would give careful consideration to the latest proposal of Panmunjom as the peace plan. He said: "I think we are a little bit closer to the successful accomplishment of our mission."

meeting, have agreed in principle to the idea.

The other bone of contention, the site for the talks, was not resolved today. South Korea still insists on holding at least the first meeting in a neutral country, preferably in Geneva.

The North Koreans, after originally offering the South a choice of site, have changed their minds twice. Two weeks ago they insisted on holding the meetings alternately in Seoul and Pyongyang. Now they say

Lugubrious Ghosts

The Shadow Guests

By Joan Aiken

(Cape, £3.95)

Arabel and Mortimer

By Joan Aiken

(Cape/BBC, £4.95)

The extravagance of Joan Aiken's imagination and her refusal to be solemn have established her as a consistently fresh, funny, unpretentious children's writer. Her move, with *The Shadow Guests*, into the darker realms of "meaningful" fantasy seems to me to be a mistake. The lack of restraint, which manifests itself in Joan Aiken's gayer mode as exuberance, in her more serious work is the unlikely situations and personalities in which her mind revels seem far removed from realistic scene-setting and portraiture, rather than her usual glorious caricatures.

The children at Joan Aiken's boarding school in Oxford have no alternative but to speak to the demoted exiles from Greyfriars: "I beg the first bath. Don't be too long then, you stinker." That they do so

here subverts the serious purpose of the book: beyond the point at which its central theme, the hero Cosmo's reconciliation to the deaths of his mother and brother, and the lifting of the family curse, can remain credible or interesting.

The story, in which four somewhat lugubrious ghosts enable Cosmo to come to terms with his problems, lacks shape, and the language in which it is told seems tired and imprecise. Words and phrases recur repetitively rather than emphatically; figures of speech (why should air travellers be "lemmings"? are often clumsy or inapt.

Arabel and Mortimer, a reprint of three of Joan Aiken's jacy stories about Arabel Jones and her raucously accident-prone raven Mortimer, is more welcome. Slight though they are, these tales, with their wonderfully elastic Quentin Blake illustrations, overflow with wit and invention. Plot and language are wildly slapstick, yet which enables the reader gleefully to submit to the stories' crazy logic. *Arabel and Mortimer* sparkles, and beside it *The Shadow Guests* seems ponderous and lacklustre.

Neil Philip

Russian Tragedy

The Tale of Prince Igor

By Leonard Clark, illustrated by Charles Keating

(Dobson, £3.25)

The Tale of Prince Igor, an anonymous epic poem of the twelfth century, is Russia's earliest literary masterpiece, somewhat akin to a mixture of *Beowulf* and the legends of King Arthur. In stirring, lyrical poetry it tells the story of the Russian valiant and foolhardy campaign against the Polovians, a plot of Christians against the heathen, Good against Evil, that was the inspiration of Borodin's opera. For all its many obscure passages, the 3,000 word poem is most beautifully told, with constant reference to the Russian countryside, its trees and birds, all expressing compassion for the Russian tragedy. It is born of that period, two centuries after the Christianising of Russia, that produced so many

wonderful churches, icons and paintings. Although numerous translations of The Tale have been made, Leonard Clark's new version is the first to attempt to provide a relatively simple English poem for young people to read. He has arrived at it by freely adapting various other translations, and one gets the impression that he had some difficulty in finding a way through the complexities of the original. Furthermore, his rather prosy free verse has little kinship with the poetry of the Russian epic, although those unfamiliar with the story will catch something of its spirit.

Charles Keating's fifteen start, full-page drawings, accompanied by the twenty-four pages of text, admirably capture the pain and fortune, grief and stupidity of the Russian venture. There is also, from Leonard Clark, a map of twelfth century Russia, a series of scholarly references, with notes on people and place names, and an illuminating introduction.

James Riordan



Riding in from the land of nostalgia: Larry the Lamb and friends. From a welcome new edition of *The Book of Toytown* (Harrap, £4.95) including a memoir of its author, S. G. Hulme Beaman, by Hendrik Baker.

Come Back Enid

Blubber

By Judy Blume

(Heinemann, £3.75)

Last year British children saw the blossoming of Judy Blume. "A household name," they say she is in the United States, but we've not had much means for telling why here, apart from the couple of sighting shots from *Gallant—the Jux love-story* *Forever . . .* (1976), and *Are You There, God? It's me, Margaret* (1978), a book with the unwritten subtitle "because, God, I'm having my first period". In 1979, however, no less than five more of Miss Blume's effusions arrived here: a couple of little story collections for younger readers (Bodley Head) a couple of adolescent hang-ups (Heinemann), and a novel *Wifey*—about the same hang-ups in more acute form transferred to later life (Macmillan).

From such evidence, "household" certainly seems to be a reasonable adjective to attach

to Miss Blume as author. The only things that seem to interest her are domestic trivia, in the midst of which she places plastic cut-out figures with just enough foibles hung about them to persuade the reader that he or she is at one with the person in the book ("The just what millions of modern young teenagers crave," English reviewer).

Your parents may

Property

Living with history

A certain pride of ownership goes with the possession of a house which is listed as being of special architectural or historic interest. For some people this will carry a certain feeling of responsibility towards the craftsman who created it, but equally there will be an added sense of continuity in the traditions of the countryside. At any rate, two interesting examples of such properties are for sale.

One is **Fordcombe Manor**, at Fordcombe, Kent, which has a grade two listing and stands in some 15½ acres with views over the Medway Valley.

It is thought to date from

the sixteenth century and to have been extended around 1622. At one time it is reputed to have been an old coaching inn. Period features include some fine timbering and mullioned windows with leaded lights, as well as a number of open fireplaces. Accommodation comprises three reception rooms, including a gallery dining room, a breakfast room and some seven bedrooms. In the grounds are a three-bedroomed cottage and two large seventeenth-century barns. The property is expected to make something over £200,000 and the agents are Knight, Frank and Rutley.

The other property which has a grade two listing is **The Chantry**, at Bisley, Gloucestershire, some four miles from Stroud. It seems to have had origins in the thirteenth century, though alterations were made in the nineteenth century. Construction is of Cotswold stone, with stone tiled roofs, and the house was extensively modernized about 10 years ago.

Accommodation includes



Tredeington Manor, Warwickshire, for sale at about £90,000.

three reception rooms, a large farmhouse kitchen, six main bedrooms and various attic rooms. Outside is a stone and stone tiled stable block which could be converted to provide further guest accommodation, subject to planning permission. The grounds, with paddocks and woodland, total about 13 acres. A price of about £125,000 is expected and the

agents are Rylands and Co., of Cirencester.

In something of the same style is **Tredeington Manor**, at Tredeington, Warwickshire, believed to date in part from the sixteenth century and built mainly of stone and brick with a tiled roof and oak mullioned windows. It is believed to have been at one time part of a much larger manor house.

There are two main reception rooms, a study, a large room converted from a barn, five bedrooms and a dressing room.

Gardens of just over an acre include various outbuildings and have a frontage to the River Stour. Offers in the region of £90,000 are being asked through the Chipping Campden office of Jackson-Stops and Staff.

Another old building is **Tudor Court**, in the High Street, Westham, near Pevensey, East Sussex. This was originally a pair of cottages which may go back to the fourteenth or fifteenth centuries and is within the conservation area around Pevensey Castle. There are two reception rooms, five bedrooms and two bathrooms. The garden is enclosed by flint walls. Offers of about £75,000 are being asked through Cluttons of London, and Brocketts, of Eastbourne.

Very much the traditional Sussex manor house is **Ancton Manor**, at Middleton, which dates from about

1677. It has been well modernized and provides two main reception rooms, a study and a kitchen with a breakfast area, plus four main bedrooms and two bathrooms on the first floor.

On the second floor there are two more bedrooms, another bathroom and a kitchenette, together with a suite of a staff flat. The garden, which includes a number of fruit trees, covers just over one acre. The price is £145,000 and the sale is through the Brighton office of Bernard Thorpe and Partners.

A pleasant little property of handy size is **Rose Cottage**, at Swarston, near Alresford, Hampshire. Built of knapped flint with brick banding and quoins, it is believed to be over 150 years old and originally to have been two separate cottages. Accommodation includes two reception rooms, three main bedrooms, and a fourth bedroom or studio. The garden of about one-fifth of an acre includes a small vegetable garden and a number of fruit trees. Offers in the region

of £55,000 are being asked through James Harris and Son, of Winchester.

Older, and unusually large for its age and type, is **Tumblers Cottage**, in Thurling Road, Elstead, near Godalming, Surrey. Possibly some 400 years old, it has white walls, partly tiled hipped and a tiled roof. There are two main reception rooms, a study and four double bedrooms, with a separate guest room or garden room outside the main house. Among other outbuildings is a range of store rooms and a garage. The property is just under a quarter of an acre in all. Offers of about £85,000 are being asked through Messrs May Baverstock, of Godalming.

Good period properties in the Lake District are not all that plentiful, but one which is available is **The Post House**, in Newton-Cartmel, Cumbria. This dates from the sixteenth or seventeenth centuries and was, in fact, in use as a post office until as recently as 1972.

Now it is a pleasant family house which provides a recep-

tion hall some 31ft long, two other main reception rooms and six bedrooms. There is a separate barn which would be suitable for conversion, subject to planning permission, and a walled garden. It is on the market at something over £70,000 through Jackson-Stops and Staff, of Chester.

Tudor in name only, **Tudor House**, at Semeray near Ipswich, Suffolk, was built in 1932, but has some exterior exposed timbering for all that. Now fully modernized, the house has three reception rooms, a sun room, a combined kitchen and breakfast room and five bedrooms. The gardens are extensive, lying mainly on three sides of the house, but to the west there is about three acres of mixed woodland. In all the land totals about 6½ acres, with outbuildings which include a garage for three cars and a stable. About £95,000 is being asked through Savills' Chelmsford office, jointly with Surridge, of Halstead.

Gerald Ely

KENT

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SPORT

Football

Gray will
plead for
a place at
Wembley

Andy Gray, Britain's costliest footballer, will plead with an FA disciplinary commission in Birmingham today to leave him free to play in the League Cup final.

The 21-year-old striker of Wolverhampton Wanderers will ask the commission—West Bromwich Albion's Bert Milburn, Birmingham City's Jack Wiseman and a Cheshire county official Frank Foden—to take a lenient attitude towards his 20 accrued disciplinary points. They can suspend him for up to three games, but even a one-game suspension could rule Gray out of the March 15 Wembley final against Nottingham Forest.

Wolverhampton's attempts to arrange a league game against Forest next Saturday have been blocked, and the fixture they have pencilled in for next week is against Gray's former club, Aston Villa, on Monday, but Villa could be involved in an FA Cup replay against West Ham United.

Villa's FA Cup hopes were hit on Monday night when Alan Evans was sent off at Brighton. Evans had scored the goal in a 1-1 draw, automatically missing the quarter-final.

Trevor Ross and Asa Hartford, of Everton, also appear with 20 points. Any suspension would rule them out of Saturday's FA Cup quarter-final against Ipswich Town.

Everton have a poor disciplinary record this season: Kidd, King and Stanley have all been suspended. Kidd has 20 points and King and Stanley have 10 each. Kidd passed 30 by being booked against Liverpool last Saturday.

Stanley, Barton, Nulty and McGeehan are also suspended. McGeehan is injured and may be unable to deputise for Hartford or Ross, but McGeehan, who missed the Merseyside derby, could fill in for Ross.

Mr Lee, who has Nulty out for the rest of the season with damaged ligaments, is set to plunge into the transfer market before the March 13 deadline.

Jimmy Bloomfield, the Orient manager, must wait until the summer to find out whether he will be able to take up his new post as managing director of the second division club. Orient have two players suspended: Bloomfield, who is suspended for 10 games, and a player named Bloomfield, who is suspended for 10 games.

Van Gool signs: Roger van Gool, the Belgian international winger from Feyenoord, has been signed by Coventry City yesterday and then played in a private practice match against the Northern Ireland team.

Gordon, who is suspended for 10 games, is set to play in a match against the Northern Ireland team. Gordon, who is suspended for 10 games, is set to play in a match against the Northern Ireland team.

Today's fixtures

7.30 unless stated

EUROPEAN CUP: Quarter-final, Feyenoord (H) v Liverpool (A).

FA CUP: Quarter-final, Aston Villa (H) v Ipswich Town (A).

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Forest face dangerous goalscorer

By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

All of Brian Clough's capacity for using the spirit, whether by scolding or cajoling, will be needed tonight (7.30) when the City Ground Nottingham Forest defend their European Cup against Dynamo Berlin only five days after losing to the first division's weakest team, Bolton Wanderers.

There is also danger for Brian's quarter-final round of this competition, Celtic, who are at home in the first leg to Real Madrid, but Arsenal, England's only survivors in the European Cup, should not be under strain against Göteborg unless the Swedes are as defensively stubborn, and, frankly, boring as Malmö in last season's European Cup final with Forest.

Unusually there is no British team left in the German dominated UEFA Cup, thus endangering future participation which will be on the basis of past success.

Celtic's tie has always seemed the most testing, but Forest's has not been made easier by fluctuating form. Mr Clough's reaction to Saturday's defeat was itself more defeatist than, in retrospect, he probably intended. He said it was a disaster: a double performance.

One comes to accept such statements as being played for purely psychological reasons, but news from Germany that Dynamo had beaten Riesa 3-1 in a league game added a touch of genuine concern.

Dynamo, second in the East German league, are not expected to be as impressively talented as some of the teams British clubs have met in Europe, yet their reputation is based on a well organized defence and hard work.

They will be encouraged by the return, after a long absence, of Riesa, a particularly dangerous goalscorer. Bob Paisley, the Liverpool manager, who has some experience of Dynamo, is potentially the most threatening team left in the European Cup, even though the players are all experienced.

Hamburg, including Keegan, Hajduk, Spitt, Rasing, Strassburg, Ajax, Celtic and Real Madrid.

While a hard match behind the Iron Curtain in a fortnight's time may not be to the taste of Bowles, who joined Forest three months ago but was ineligible for the previous round of the European Cup, tonight he could confuse his opponents.

Mr Clough added: "I am not bothered about Dynamo's performance. The only thing we need to do is to win the match. I don't fancy going to Berlin with the tie still in the balance." The

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Bowles: skills that could be confusing to Dynamo.

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Mercenaries
come to
the aid of
Japan

By Rex Bellamy
Squash Rackets Correspondent

Geoffrey Hunt, of Melbourne, the world squash racket champion, has been beaten in all three of the tournaments that were supposed to bring him to his peak for the British Open Championship, which began at Wembley yesterday. Qamar Zaman beat him in the five-game final of the first two and another Pathan, Hidayatullah, defeated him 3-0 in the final round of the British Open.

Hunt has won this tournament for the past three years. He was very disappointed because his game has been picking up and I started off very well. Hunt said: "I felt really good and I had him on the go. But he picked up his game and suddenly, with no apparent change, I was on the receiving end. Hidayatullah was very well. I could not even hit into any of his shots. He was a winner. I gave him too many opportunities, but on the night he deserved to win. I've seen him lose many matches because he gets upset or loses his concentration but tonight he was very patient and kept his cool. He went for his shots at the right time—and got most of them."

Jahan enjoys playing Hunt because he trusts the Australian to play it straight and can therefore apply his mind to the game without distraction. Jahan said his concentration was not affected by the fact that he was playing a winner. I gave him too many opportunities, but on the night he deserved to win. I've seen him lose many matches because he gets upset or loses his concentration but tonight he was very patient and kept his cool. He went for his shots at the right time—and got most of them."

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Squash rackets

Mercenaries
come to
the aid of
Japan

By Rex Bellamy
Squash Rackets Correspondent

Geoffrey Hunt, of Melbourne, the world squash racket champion, has been beaten in all three of the tournaments that were supposed to bring him to his peak for the British Open Championship, which began at Wembley yesterday. Qamar Zaman beat him in the five-game final of the first two and another Pathan, Hidayatullah, defeated him 3-0 in the final round of the British Open.

Hunt has won this tournament for the past three years. He was very disappointed because his game has been picking up and I started off very well. Hunt said: "I felt really good and I had him on the go. But he picked up his game and suddenly, with no apparent change, I was on the receiving end. Hidayatullah was very well. I could not even hit into any of his shots. He was a winner. I gave him too many opportunities, but on the night he deserved to win. I've seen him lose many matches because he gets upset or loses his concentration but tonight he was very patient and kept his cool. He went for his shots at the right time—and got most of them."

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New Zealanders are left to ponder three missed chances

Civil Service fight back for third successive victory

Worcester programme

Worcester selections
 Cr. Michael Seely
 1.0 Jack's Walk. 2.30 Durham Lad. 3.0 Warwick Flyer. 3.30 Young
 John. 4.0 Rough and Tumble. 4.30 Relevance.

Dr Michael Seely
2.0 Jack's Walk. 2.30 Durham Lad. 3.0 Warwick Flyer. 3.30 Young
John. 4.0 Rough and Tumble. 4.30 Relevance.

Necessary requirements for Lions in South Africa

The position at number eight is more open still, and the selectors are looking for a player who can make a name. Michael Gibson, though just starting to play again, has missed the championship through injury, and while it is unlikely that he will be playing skills promised to be an eventual successor in Lions circles, the selectors are looking for a replacement. Marvyn Davies, however, the Welsh international, has been offered a bonus in the emergence of the young Scottish player, John Beattie, whose strength and attacking play will be a valuable asset. International—provided it be followed by another fine performance in the Calcutta Cup match—may well be the last time that Gibson will lead the team. The new leader from the third division is the Schweppes club champion, who has been the most successful discovery of the selectors.

Attacking final can defend student game

By Richard Sreeston

Exeter, who were invariably for student rugby at last December's Oxford and Cambridge match, should draw far greater satisfaction from their first season's season final at Twickenham (3.07.67) which brings together Exeter, who are most to Loughborough for last year's title, and the University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology, the 1976 champions. Both Exeter and UWIST have reached the final stages of the Welsh Cup and are in the broad of rugby and have scored heavily in the preliminary stages.

UWIST, which is a Cardiff university, includes several players who have already made their mark in higher spheres and will start in the March 10th final. They are: Gareth Roberts, Swansea; Welsh B flanker, and they should show a genuine fluency of possession. Huw Davies, of Coventry and England, is a powerful scrum-half, and a player, who earlier this winter scored 31 points in one match for Llanelli against Penarth. Occupying the back row are:

Tony Swift, a Swansea and Exeter player, with 23 tries to his credit in Welsh rugby this season; and the scrum-half, Ian Robinson, Newport stand-off.

It is full back, UWIST scored 110 points in five Welsh group matches before beating Bath 58-0, Manchester 46-6 and Loughborough 39-10.

Exeter, still maintaining pace since the amalgamation of the University and St Luke's College, have maturity and experience in their game. Their game is slightly less flamboyant. Patching at lock has represented Devon and English Students and Exeter have played in the Welsh Cup for North, Lancs and Derbys and played at 19-group level.

Mark Lynch, Exeter No. 8, is a Welsh A scrum-half, International stands 6ft 4 1/2 in. (Exeter have seven players of 6ft 2 in or more, but the biggest man on the field is the scrum-half, R. J. Bryshaw, who is 6ft 5 1/2 and weighs over 165 lb.)

Among their backs Exeter have two players from Exeter, a scrum-half, who has played for Devon and Eastern Counties, and Fickersgill, a Headingley stand-off. Sumner, on the right wing, is a former Kings. Trevor stand-off, are among eight of the side who also played in the 1979 final. Exeter, who next week will be swept through the south-west group, scoring 167

Rubstic on course for a National double

Jy Michael Seely

Golden Vow has been made available to the sponsor who repeats his November course victory in the William Hill Imperial Cup at Sandown Park on Monday.

The horse is bound to do it. Golden Vow must have an outstanding chance of winning this £100,000 handicap which was first run in 1907.

The five-year-old was ousted by the heavy ground in the early stages of his career and under the circumstances ran a first-class trial for the Imperial Cup when second to Horton Cavalier in similar conditions.

"He's very pleased with Golden Vow," says Harrop, his trainer, said yesterday. "His form and temperament have yet to be finalized."

A likely outsider for this competitive affair is Nelson Guest's three-year-old Red Hawk, who after winning two races earlier in the season was by no means disgraced when he failed to make the top four in the Towford Handicap at Sandown.

There was both bad and good news for the other horses in the

yearling. The bad concerned the great hunter-chaser, Sperran Missile. After a dawn gallop this morning John Thorpe was advised to give him two or three days rest for at least a month. "So it's goodbye to the Gold Cup as far as my horse is concerned," said Thorpe. "I and quite obviously it's on the cards that he may have to miss Adoree as well."

Sperran Missile is in his prime at the age of eight and the horse has recently won several races.

Good tidings however came from Kelso where, half an hour after Direct Line had comfortably won the £100,000 handicap, Charlie Hardicap Burdle, Rubsic administered a decisive beating to the King's Own Scottish Borders Cup. Last year's Northern winner drifted out from 4-1 to 8-1 in the betting and finished off the race from 12-1 to 10-1 with Ladbrokes to repeat his 1979 triumph at Aintree.

Peter Easberry's gallant old warner, Sex Picon, who has finished runner-up to Monks' Warbler, also has a chance of

Plumpton results

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s for Gloucester's new style has no room for Butler

Ray Budman replaced Chubb as the new "big man" on the side with two changes from the one which beat Nottingham in the previous round. Budman, who was hoping that their 5ft 7in lack, John Hedley, would be available, to face Hudson. Straker, who had been in the team, had been part of the British point contingent super-sizing the Rhodesian selections. He was home in time. John Struth will take his place and Goshwirth twice former world champion, will be back in the line-up; best Bristol in the previous round.

student game

[illegible]

onal double sparked in his work on Bill Elkey's gallops yesterday morning. And Sea Pigeon is now top-priced

Tote bets affair is closed, Whitelaw says

As far as the Gold Cup is concerned, Michael Dickkison said that if Team Grey reverses its loss to Silver Buck's blood count was not after returning from Hereford. But it is a condition which requires to treatment. And promising that a good well in the coming season and that the drying weather continues, Silver Buck must have a great chance in the big race."

This morning's best bet should be King of the Newby, a handsome Steeplechess at Catterick Bridge. Because of a minor injury, Fairy King had had no time before finishing third at Saraguse. Warwick is confidently expected to make amends today. Neville Crump's Gold Cup

The "after-unc time scandal" at the Tote is closed. William Whitehead, the Home Secretary, said yesterday. Speaking at the House of Commons, Whitehead said that an inquiry had been set up as soon as possible into the affair and everything asked for in its report had been done.

Whitehead said that the "look place" were regrettable, he said. "It is now reasonable that the matter should be properly regarded as closed, I have said so in Parliament and I say it again now."

Earlier, Woodrow Wyatt, the Tote chairman, had defended the Tote's position in the affair. He said: "The utmost care is being taken to see that such a situation can never arise again."

he worse for being brought down at an early stage of Cavity Hunter's race at Haydock Park on

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HADAJAN, b. g. by Royalty—Sps

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**Holders face difficult
Sunningdale draw**

Cup match against the United States at Muirfield last June—and was beaten by a record eight and seven in his single against Doug Clarke. He was dropped out of the match and a few days later he slumped five and four in the first round of the Amateur championship, to Ducau Wells, the Welsh International. Confidence in his game was so low he pulled out

Rifle shooting

By Our Rifle Shooting
Correspondent

Britain's top marksmen have invited the world to come, and meet them at Bisley in June as the first world target rifle championship. Tim Webster, chairman of the National Rifle Association, announced that the event would be sponsored by Whitehead's Royal Kallenberg Trophy. The prize fund includes a first prize of £1,000 and a gold medal for the new champion.

So far, 500 entries have been received from the tournament which will take place between June 30 and 22. The final entry to date totals 240 will include the best 100 scorers from the aggregate of the last two years. Overseas entries have come from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, United States, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria,

Hooker up for transfer

Eddie Szymula, the former Great Britain under-25 hooker, has been put on the transfer list by Barrow Rugby League Club after his refusal to play in last Sunday's second division match against Fildham.

Catterick Bridge programme

[illegible]

2.45 NEWBY CHASE (Handicap : £1,140 : 2m)

[illegible]

3.45 BUSBY CHASE (Handicap : £1.702 : 3m 300yd

[illegible]

4.45 HORNBY FURDLE (Div II) : novices : 1678 : 2m

[illegible]

Gettysburg Police Dept. - 1st

2.15 King Midas, 2.05 FAIRY KING is specially recommended. 3.15 11

PARLIAMENT, March 4, 1980

Britain's task in Zimbabwe to assist in orderly transfer of power to stable government

House of Lords
Britain's task now was to assist in the orderly transfer of power to a stable government, Lord Carrington, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said in a statement to the Commons.

He said the results gave Mr Mugabe's Zanu (PP) party 57 seats, Mr Nkomo's Patriotic Front party 20 seats and Bishop Muzorewa's UANC party three seats.

In his report to the Governor, the Election Commission stated that, despite some distortion of voting as a result of intimidation in certain areas, the overall results would broadly reflect the wishes of the people.

It has been the virtually unanimous view of the British, Commonwealth and other international observers who witnessed the elections, that they were, in the circumstances, free and fair. The exceptionally high turnout provides an indication of the confidence of the Rhodesian people in the conduct of the elections and the security of the vote.

The Government are grateful for the efforts of all those concerned with the organisation of the elections for their co-operation and hard work. The need now is for national unity and reconciliation.

The Governor has seen Mr Mugabe, and has agreed with him an absolute majority of the seats in the House of Assembly, and asked him to set in train the process of forming a government which can contribute effectively to these goals.

An important step towards reconciliation and integration of forces has already been taken with the start of joint training between units of Mr Mugabe's and Mr Nkomo's forces, under the supervision of British members of the monitoring force.

The growing confidence and co-operation between the forces means that the role of the monitoring force is increasingly one of liaison and training and not of direct intervention in the field.

The Government would wish to record once again its thanks to all members of the force for the role they played in the elections.

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admirable way in which they carried out their difficult task, above all in winning the confidence of all sides.

The people of Rhodesia have now made a choice for a new government under conditions agreed by all the parties at Lancaster House, which committed themselves to accept the outcome of the election.

It is no less important that the other aspects of the Lancaster House agreement should be faithfully observed.

The independence constitution will shortly come into force and provide a framework for the minority community and ensure that they can continue to play their full part in the life of the country.

Britain's task now is to assist in the orderly transfer of power to a stable government. The Governor will do all that he can to ease the transition and to help overcome whatever problems may arise in the period until independence.

Lord Gorman-Roberts, Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth Affairs—We would all wish to congratulate Mr Mugabe on his electoral victory and to wish him well in the immense task that faces him and his people in the future of the country.

Has consideration been given to the request of Mr Mugabe that the British Government should expedite the process of training for the new state?

Will the Government do everything in its power in the next few crucial weeks to ensure that the new state is established on a firm basis?

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The Liberal Party has throughout regarded Mr Mugabe as the most likely choice for a leader of the people of Zimbabwe.

Now that he has been so unanimously elected, there is no doubt that he will be a successful leader. In view of the public statements he has made during and subsequent to the elections, to regard him as a Marxist-Leninist in the words of a supporter of some sort of totalitarian regime?

He added that it would be advisable for the Governor to stay on in Salisbury for a reasonable period to ensure the new Government was installed and functioning with the support of the majority of the new nation.

Lord Carrington—I was greatly encouraged by the statement made by Mr Mugabe on the 1st of March. It seems to me that if that is the policy Mr Mugabe intends to follow, it does lead to the reconciliation which is so necessary in Rhodesia at the present time, and certainly it will be the object of the Government to help in the transition period. (Cheers.)

I have already sent messages to the new Government and to the people of Rhodesia asking them for constructive help in the problem which faces Zimbabwe in the transition period.

With regard to the position of the Governor, a great deal depends on the date of independence. I think Mr Mugabe will obviously have a great deal to say on that point, but I doubt whether it would be proper for the Governor, who would then have no constitutional responsibility to stay on after independence.

Lord Home of the Hirsel (C) said the election had been an exemplary exercise in democracy. The word used by Mr Mugabe in relation to the future was "togetherness".

It is that togetherness (he said) which is the key to the future of the country. It is that togetherness which is the key to the future of the country.

He said he was surprised that Mr Wilson was trying to revive the corpse of the Rhodesian white-minority government. It was only one year ago that the Rhodesian people had elected a new government, and it was only one year ago that the Rhodesian people had elected a new government.

Mr Wilson was dedicated to the break-up of the United Kingdom. Only on Saturday Mr Wilson's election speech was broadcast on the radio, and it was only one year ago that the Rhodesian people had elected a new government.

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Governor asked to stay on for as long as he thinks fit

House of Commons
After Sir Ian Gilmour, Lord Privy Seal, had repeated the statement in the Commons, Dr David Owen, Secretary of State for the Home Department, endorsed the view that the election had been conducted freely and fairly.

We congratulate Mr Mugabe (he said) on his victory and pay tribute to the statesmanship which he has shown in victory and the will he has made clear that he wishes to see a united Zimbabwe and is taking steps to ensure the confidence of the people of all races and colours.

I pay tribute, too, to the work of the Foreign Secretary, Lord Carrington, and to the work of the House in making the ceasefire and election possible. (Conservative cheers.)

The Commonwealth played an invaluable role and the soldiers of the Commonwealth who were sent to Rhodesia to maintain the ceasefire. Then there has been the work of the Commonwealth in the transition period, particularly those in Africa, and the Commonwealth Secretary General.

Now, long will the period until independence be? We would expect the Governor to stay for as long as he thinks fit. It is the best outcome particularly as the Government last week had cast doubt on whether it would be selected to form a government.

It is in the best interests of this country that good relations be established between our Government and the new one in Zimbabwe, especially because of the practical differences between them, Sir Gilmour—This holding of

free and fair elections almost in the middle of a civil war has been an extraordinary achievement reflecting enormous credit on the Governor and everyone concerned in the election arrangements.

I do not think it is for me or the House to express an opinion on whether an overall majority for one party is the right result or not. The Zimbabwe people have so chosen.

Of course we want good relations with the new government. But we must not forget that the Commonwealth has a long history of good relations with the Commonwealth countries, and we must not forget that the Commonwealth has a long history of good relations with the Commonwealth countries.

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party (Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles)—We consider the Government's attitude towards the new Government in Zimbabwe to be one of the best. It is a pity that the Government have not been able to establish good relations with the new Government in Zimbabwe.

Mr Kenneth Baker (City of Westminster, St Marylebone, C)—Did Mr Thatcher say yesterday that sterling had depreciated against the dollar by three cents. I congratulate her on resisting pressure in the last few weeks to increase our interest rate.

Mr Thatcher should ensure that the Bank of England in the next few weeks should be able to reduce the rate of interest by three per cent.

Mr Thatcher—I had indeed noticed the fact that it was not the Bank of England but the Bank of America which was raising the rate of interest.

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ance will be generously given to the new government.

Will he assure us that the British Commonwealth monitoring force will stay in position as long as they are needed for the crucial role of integrating the force?

Sir Ian Gilmour—I cannot give an exact answer on the period before independence. It will depend on matters beyond our control, on the actions of Mr Mugabe in the formation of his government. But Mr Mugabe has asked that the Governor should stay as long as he would think fit and there will be no rush.

As we have made clear, we will discuss with the new government the arrangements for the Commonwealth monitoring force. Many refugees have returned and we will assist in their rehabilitation.

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Mr Robert Hughes (Aberdeen, North, Lab)—Will he send the Commonwealth monitoring force to Zimbabwe after it has been elected? In the spirit of reconciliation with the Government of Zimbabwe, will he send the Commonwealth monitoring force to Zimbabwe after it has been elected?

Will the Government also make a clear commitment to the territorial integrity of Zimbabwe, by telling the South African Government that it will not allow it to interfere in the future of Zimbabwe? (Labour cheers.)

Sir Ian Gilmour—I am normally accustomed to send formal congratulations at the time of a victory. We congratulate Mr Mugabe on his victory.

We are prepared to provide whatever assistance is available to the new Government to ensure a smooth transition to independence.

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universal suffrage are an illusion. Sir Ian Gilmour—It is he who is refusing to recognise facts. There has been overwhelming evidence that these elections were free and fair. As far as I know he was not there. They may be a slither to him, but they were a reality to everybody else. (Cheers.)

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Mrs Thatcher's good wishes for Zimbabwe

House of Commons
The British Government wished the whole of Zimbabwe well in forming a new government, Mrs Thatcher said at Prime Minister's Question Time.

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the army, the monitoring force, under General Acland, and the police. The object was to arrange for a smooth transition of power to the people of Rhodesia to have under their own control.

Mr David Widdicombe (Walsell, North, Lab) said—Mrs Thatcher and her party pleased with Mr Mugabe's election victory?

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Label please

The Conspicuous Government, as if it did not have any troubles already, is suffering from a bad case of multiple deliriums. The label "wet" now seems to be firmly entrenched in the ephemeral political vocabulary for those of Mrs Thatcher's supporters who are nicely-mouthed, sceptical, dubious or otherwise less than totally enamoured of the gospel of steamrolling monetarism. The other lot, those members of the Government who profess themselves in total agreement with their leader's outlook, Lord Alport, writing north-east of here on the letters page recently, suggested "hard-core" as a suitable label, but I shudder at the precise synonym of "wet" as "hawk" is the opposite of "dove". I invite your suggestions, and will pay £5 in paper money, not gold, to the first person to tell me by 25th Wednesday, please.

Alan Hamilton



MR MUGABE'S ZIMBABWE

So ends the vain dream of white supremacy and white leadership in Rhodesia. In the perspective of African history and geopolitics it was always an illusion. For a short time—short in the timescale of countries and peoples—circumstances gave power to the white Rhodesians and it blinded them. The compromises with the inevitable that Britain, bargaining with few cards over the last fifteen years, offered to Mr Ian Smith and his colleagues were rejected. Even when, after the Portuguese revolution, reality began to break into the Rhodesian mentality, the successive compromises were too little and too late. It was not inevitable that Mr Mugabe should win so decisively at the polls; it was the accumulation of miscalculations and misunderstandings by the majority of the white minority that conspired with circumstances to bring him. His party and his ideology to unchallengeable power in Salisbury.

The all-important question now is whether white cooperation, pretty well on the terms that Mr Mugabe has offered with considerable generosity, will be forthcoming. There are strong reasons for thinking that the white role in black Zimbabwe could be great and constructive. It can be, if the white population, more particularly the younger generation, can accept great and often unsettling—perhaps humiliating—changes in its lifestyle, and let itself new goals. Terrible as the war has been, it has this advantage: soldiers who fought each other can often form comrades and work together. A large number of the whites were in the firing line. They can and do respect the "terms"; the same can be true on the ex-guerrilla side—for in war they have gained the self-respect and sense of identity for which so many Africans yearn.

Reflections of the people

Further Mr Mugabe can afford to be magnanimous in deed as in word. He takes power with complete authority. Granted that intimidation affected the results, the number of seats Zanu's intimidatory tactics could add were never estimated at more than four or five; so his majority must be held to reflect the will of the electorate by and large. Force entered into that will as was always realized at Lancaster House: the African voter wanted peace, and peace was in Mr Mugabe's power to grant or withhold. If he had come to power in a coalition his first ambition would have been to

strengthen his party's grip; now that he has full power his ambition must be to make Zimbabwe a powerful black state with a strong voice in Africa and the world—and for that he needs white collaboration.

In that sense, the British Government has rather unexpectedly got what it always said it wanted—the basis for a stable Zimbabwe in which the white population could stay and help, as opposed to a white exodus that some other results of the campaign and poll might have generated. It stands to reason that at this critical moment it is sound British policy to help to cement this basis. If Mr Mugabe wants Lord Soames to stay on to provide continuity and a sense of security to the whites, then he certainly should stay as long as, in the office of Governor, he can do so effectively. Independence day is for Mr Mugabe and his colleagues to decide, and in the past Africans have never wanted to postpone it. But the appointment of a president will take time. In that period Britain should give the aid it can to the stability of the new state.

Important role for whites

The importance of the white settlement in the economy and in the administrative and professional infrastructure of Zimbabwe has been emphasized again and again. Mr Mugabe declares that he accepts the historical and structural facts of the situation. The one thing the whites must avoid is to give the impression that even now they expect to establish themselves as back-seat drivers. There will be a transitional period—as there was in Zambia and Kenya for example. But Zimbabwe is going to be a black state, black-led and black-administered, to black (not white) standards. Potentially, Zimbabwe is the second strongest and second richest black African state; it is their contribution to this objective that is the only real safeguard of the white community's future—a future in which whites must accept a new status and lowered affluence. If they can accept that prospect constructively the substitutes that Mr Mugabe will call in from the communist block will be the fewer.

Mr Mugabe faces immense problems. The job of reconstruction in the battered country will take time, and needs some outside help. But he has also to integrate his armed forces and find civilian jobs for those who are discharged honourably. Nigeria found this a formidable task. It is idle to deny that he will need to reward his sup-

porters, and that white men's office chairs will be among the spoils to be distributed. He has to find much more land for rural Africans of all tribes, and although he speaks wisely of underdeveloped areas it is the fertile latifundia of the whites (and have been indoctrinated by Zanu activists to expect) to be shared out in substantial measure. Holding the balance between appeasing land hunger and keeping an efficient agriculture will be Mr Mugabe's vital concern. It was Bishop Muzorewa's failure—or inability—to make a bigger beginning with such a change that helped to defeat him so decisively.

In this scene, long before fears of doctrinaire marxism need be entertained there are features of hope. The whites, however, can give an earnest of their goodwill in defeat by not handling their twenty seats in the assembly as a capricious opposition. The Rhodesia Front needs to rethink its policies. It is now no more than the representative of a community, and one which Mr Mugabe wants to integrate with the rest on an equal basis.

Mr Mugabe has started with fair and wise words; his cabinet-making may reflect them. Zimbabwe is to be "non-aligned", perhaps a Commonwealth member. South Africa is to be treated as a state with rights and sovereignty to be respected. There is to be no doctrinaire socialisation of land or businesses, he has stated—Mr Mugabe knows how much good that has done Angola, Mozambique, Ethiopia and many other African "peoples republics". Circumstances must suggest to him that a middle way is best. All this may change for the worse, but that is for the future. For the present he should be given every incentive to carry out his stated policy of reconciliation and nation-building.

The end of an era

For Britain, too, a difficult era has ended. For fifteen years and more so-called British imperialism and alleged double-dealing over Rhodesia has embarrassed British diplomacy and wracked Commonwealth and race relations. Whether the outcome, so different from their early prediction, is entirely palatable to the Government, they can take credit for vindicating British integrity. Britain has been as good as its word in Lusaka and in the United Nations. Lord Carrington and Lord Soames have accomplished a diplomatic feat that has often seemed impossible.

neither practical nor proper, but he did not say that this should have affected the American vote.

There does seem to have been the intention on the part of the Americans to show Israel their displeasure over its settlements policy. Mr Carter and other members of the Administration are known to be angry with Mr Begin's Government for its policy of allowing the settlements to go ahead, particularly last month's decision to allow settlement in Hebron, which was the immediate cause of the Security Council debate. The issue in Washington last week was how tough a resolution they were prepared actually to vote in favour of, as opposed to letting go through with an American abstention. Some people were undoubtedly afraid of damaging the prospects of the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations, others of hurting Mr Carter's standing with American Jewish voters. There was clearly a strong case for a stern warning to Israel. The worst of all was to give an impression of political ineptitude or, at best, muddle.

of Graham Sutherland by Douglas Cooper, published by Lund Humphreys in 1961. I was pleased to read again Mr Cooper's opinion of the bloodless and academic work of Henry Moore compared to the work of Graham Sutherland.

Today (February 28) I was surprised to read Mr Cooper's letter in which he states that he compared Sutherland to no one.

For example, he wrote: "The continued vitality of Sutherland's art is related to his practice of constantly looking to nature for visual and imaginative refreshment. The reverse case is that of an artist like Henry Moore who, for want of fresh and authentic experiences repeats his own prototypes and allows his work to become bloodless and academic."

Yours faithfully,
ROY CLAPP,
Shearnes,
Over Kellet,
Canford,
Lancashire,
February 28.

Movable feast?

From Mrs Everide Berry
Sir, Why can't the French just eat the sausages, as they do larks and blackbirds?

Yours faithfully,
EVERIDE BERRY,
63 Chandos Road,
East Finchley, N2,
February 25.

Monetarism and hyper-inflation

From Professor F. A. Hayek, FBA

Sir, The newfangled word monetarism means of course no more than the good old name "quantity theory of money", as it was formulated in modern times by the late Professor Irving Fisher and reformulated by Professor Milton Friedman. Of this I said nearly 30 years ago in the first lecture I delivered in this country that "from a practical point of view, it would be one of the worst things which could befall us if the general public should ever again cease to believe in the elementary propositions of the quantity theory". This was, however, unfortunately brought about by the seductive theories of Lord Keynes. I then said that it was in many respects a crude oversimplification, but the irreducible chief content is still that inflation is always and everywhere the effect of an excessive supply of money and that it can be cured only by a restriction of its supply. The problem is that in its crude form it provides no adequate measure of what is the supply of money and that not only the supply of all kinds of money but also the demand for money determines its value. This, however, does not alter the fact that its value can be controlled only by limiting the basic cash, supplied under the existing system by the central bank. Since this is a government institution, all inflation is made by government and nobody else can do anything about it. It does, however, make impracticable the Friedmanite plan of fixing by law the rate at which the quantity of money may and should increase. This would probably prove the greatest financial panic of history.

I trust nobody doubts today that inflation must be stopped. The chief issue is how far this can and ought to be done. On this, I am afraid, my difference from Friedman makes me take an even more radical view than he and most of my friends take.

The reason why inflation gives to business and employment lastly only so long as it accelerates, that is so long as prices turn out to be generally higher than expected, it clearly cannot accelerate indefinitely. But as soon as it ceases to accelerate all the windfalls which kept unprofitable businesses and employees going disappear. Every slowing down of inflation must produce temporary conditions of extensive failure and unemployment. No inflation has yet been terminated without a "stabilisation crisis". To believe that it can be slowed down gradually over a period of years means accepting a prolonged misery. No government could stand such a course of prolonged depression. If we want to stop inflation we must do it here and now. It can be done. After World War One the United States brought prices down in six months (August, 1920-February, 1921) by one third. The suffering was great but another six months later a new boom was under way! There is no question now of bringing prices actually down, but merely of stopping all further rise. If this is not done by a determined Government like the present it will not be done before, after a vain attempt of concealing inflation by price controls, the pound finally collapses entirely.

Yours faithfully,
F. A. HAYEK,
Urchstrasse 27,
D-7800 Freiburg (Breisgau),
Federal Republic of Germany,
February 26.

Giving delight

From Lord David Cecil, CH

Sir, Unlike Mr Stanley Reynolds (February 28), I was moved and delighted by the BBC's production of *The Tempest*, charged with the play's mysterious magic and its deeper meaning to the author's intention, especially in Michael Horner's heart-felt, splendidly spoken Prospero.

But then, for me, Shakespeare is still a living author whose values—moral, spiritual, aesthetic—can still speak as much as they did to his contemporaries; from which it follows that the best performances of his plays are those which take most care to be true to his text and to the intention behind it. In contrast, Mr Reynolds apparently thought that Shakespeare's dead author, so far as the meaning of his plays are concerned, was no longer significantly anything to us and whose plays are therefore unbearably boring unless they are presented in such a way as to acquire a new and modern significance, even if this involves offending flagrantly against their spirit and even their words.

His references to the character of Prospero indicate that this is what he looks for in a production of *The Tempest*. At all costs, it must avoid "authenticity". In fact, performances of Shakespeare's works, like performances of Bach's, are most telling when authentic.

Yours truly,
DAVID CECIL,
Red Lion House,
Canborne,
Dorset,
February 29.

Mysticism

From Mrs Laurel Phillipson

Sir, Thank you for an interesting article on religious mysticism (February 25). Your correspondent's failure to make any mention of Quakerism was a surprising omission. Perhaps its very lack of mysticism or other exotic trimmings has caused it to be overlooked in this instance. It has, however, been a strong home-grown movement in Britain for more than 300 years, always mystical in its aims and orientations and practical in outlook. Quakers have never found the need for any director or third party to stand between themselves and the Inner Light.

Sincerely,
LAUREL PHILLIPSON,
19 Mountrose Gardens,
Millingdale,
Glasgow,
February 25.

Cuts in the BBC's music services

From Mr Raymond Fischer

Sir, The BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, as he disbanded, Radio 3 curtailed, but Radio 1 to continue.

Typical. Radio 1 should go. It came into existence in order to replace the offshore pirates; but the need, in a free society, to meet the public demand for pop music should not have been paid for out of public funds; to argue otherwise is only apparently democratic, but is in reality superficial and short-sighted.

The BBC have said in the past that far more people listen to Radio 1 than Radio 3. Of course, and more people play bingo, buy tabloid newspapers and watch drivel on the box than listen to Mozart string quintets. This should cause no surprise, nor be considered important, except perhaps to top BBC administrators who apparently know of no criterion other than the counting of heads. They will say that their responsibility is to the entire licence-paying public, not only those with minority tastes. But arts and entertainment bodies receive public funds for the benefit of minority tastes; why is it only the BBC which feels it must cater also for the ephemeral and trashy, with all the nonsense about charts, poured out to the accompaniment of phoney mid-Atlantic accents?

After half a century there had to be some modification of Lord Reith's attitudes; but his grasp of basic concepts, which led to BBC radio being the envy of the world because of both its studio programming and its support of live music, is being undermined and betrayed by the timid, the trendy, the philistine. The BBC's job is to provide on TV and radio the very best in serious and light entertainment not to become obsessed with "ratings" and try to compete in the mass market. Its present financial problems provide the opportunity to get priorities right.

Elitism? And how else did we come by most of the masterpieces, in whatever art, which delight and enrich us today?

Yours sincerely,
RAYMOND FISCHER,
23 Park Road,
London SW13,
March 2.

From Mr Peter Maxwell Davies

Sir, It occurs to me that the unique position in the life of Scottish music held by the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra can hardly be appreciated by those proposing to disband it. I would like to point out two instances of my own experience with them which illustrate the quality of the service they offer and for which, most unfairly, they receive no glory or public acknowledgement.

Before the first performance of my symphony in 1978, given in London by the Philharmonia Orchestra, who commissioned it, under Simon Rattle, the work was "tried out" in late 1977 by the BBCSO and Mr Rattle, with the agreement of the Philharmonia and the BBC, on condition that the Scottish recording was broadcast after the London premiere. The work is not easy, to put it mildly, and the rehearsals and recorded

Borstal girls

From Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, MP for Ormskirk (Labour)

Sir, Mr D. C. Drew (February 27) rightly points out that Bulwood Hall is the only closed borstal for girls in the country. This means that the Advisory Council on the Penal System recommendation that this establishment should no longer be used as a girls' borstal could not be implemented immediately, but only achieved over time as and when alternative facilities were provided.

I also fully accept Mr Drew's statement that the Senior Probation Officer who is member of Bulwood Hall's team of first-rate staff is in contact with each trainee's probation officer prior to her release. However, in effecting the resettlement of difficult young women, such contact is the subsidiary for visits by relatives, friends and home probation officers during the trainee's time in custody.

The statistics on which my earlier comments were based are not for one year only, as Mr Drew suggests, but cover a two year period. Of the 228 girls discharged from Bulwood Hall during 1978, 49 per cent had had no visits or only one visit from family or friends during their stay at the borstal, and 30 per cent had received no visit from a probation officer or social worker. The corresponding percentages for the 186

Policy for forestry

From Mr John Parslow

Sir, Foresters persist in making misleading statements about the effects of their activities on wildlife. The Director of the Royal Forestry Society states (February 22) that conifer plantations "provide habitats for a greater diversity of bird species and also carry greater numbers of birds than the open moorland which they replace".

What he does not say is that they frequently replace rare species by common ones: less habitat is available for our internationally important and declining populations of merlin and golden plover, for example, but more for chaffinches, which are already among Britain's commonest birds.

Further, existing conifer forests could be much better for wildlife than they are, given sympathetic treatment; but there is little of this. Instead, the general trend is in the opposite direction—to bigger blocks and shorter rotation.

Nor is it correct to lump all "conservationists" together. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is not objecting to all forestry per se. What we seek is an effective control mechanism which will ensure that important nature conservation sites are not planted unless there is a clear overriding national advantage in doing so.

performances were of enormous value to both the conductor and myself and I would make essential last-minute changes, particularly in the percussion section, and check the orchestral parts before London rehearsals and publication of the score on the day of the London performance.

The orchestra was cooperative and cheerful, and their help invaluable, while they knew that I am a symphony/pioneer work on the symphony would inevitably go to the London orchestra.

The services of this orchestra to Scottish music, particularly to young composers, cannot be emphasized enough. The attitude of the BBC SSO—as distinct from that of certain other groups it is claimed to be—was superbly demonstrated by my very satisfactory dealings with the management and players for the 1979 St Magnus Festival, Orkney, of which I am a director. The orchestra gave a splendid and popular concert including two works by Stravinsky, and one by Edward McGuire, the young Scottish composer, commissioned by the festival, as well as the first performance in Orkney of Mozart's 38th symphony.

For this year's festival I thought it would be interesting to invite another Scottish orchestra, but, after a long delay, was given one option of programme of the instant festival sort, guaranteed to give me better to the players, with no possibility of performing, much less commissioning any Scottish music, plus a demand (take it or leave it!) for £2,000 on top of the orchestra's fee for an internationally known soloist, whom I did not want. (We are not talking about the Scottish National Orchestra.)

I regretted not having asked the BBCSO again, but by now it was too late. We have invited the pupils of Chetham's School, Manchester, whose excellent music-making I know from Darlington Summer School where they will present a programme including new music.

One last point about the proposed execution of the BBCSO. Last night was in Edinburgh for a concert by my larger chamber works. A large proportion of the players were from the BBCSO. Were these players not there, and had they not received their thorough training in twentieth century music essential to their commitment, the concert would have been out of the question. To destroy an orchestra is to destroy the chamber music that springs up around it. I am not thinking so much of the effect on performance of my own work but on the performances of work by the large number of young Scottish composers at that Edinburgh concert. This would be a musical disaster, with ripples stretching out to the furthest reaches of Scottish musical life, and beyond.

I do not personally know the BBC Ulster orchestra it is proposed to axe. However, I hear its broadcasts from Belfast often, and would have thought that its cheerful music-making, radiating from that city, symbolized something which is beyond any price in pounds and pence. These orchestras players deserve some reward or accolade, rather than the sack.

Yours, etc.,
PETER MAXWELL DAVIES,
Rackwick,
Hoy,
Orkney,
March 1.

girls discharged during 1979 were 43 per cent and 29 per cent respectively.

Many of those giving evidence to the House of Commons Expenditure Committee during its recent inquiry into Women in the Penal System argued that women and girls in custody should not be concentrated in a small number of establishments but accommodated in smaller units throughout the country. These units might be attached to or situated near male establishments so that some facilities and overhead costs can be shared. The representative organizations of probation and borstal governors and chief probation officers were among those who suggested that such a policy be considered.

It is clearly a nonsense to expect young women to reintegrate into the community when they have been deprived of proper access to their families, friends and probation officers and I cannot accept that the girls at Bulwood Hall are "privileged to be in such beautiful rural surroundings" or that the rural setting is an adequate substitute for regular and sustained contact with the real world to which they will have to return.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT KILROY-SILK,
House of Commons,
London, SW1,
February 28.

Policy for forestry

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Yours faithfully,
JOHN PARSLAW,
Director (Conservation),
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds,
The Lodge, Sandy,
Bedfordshire,
February 26.

Boycotting the Olympics

From Mr David Maxwell

Sir, At a time when the western world in general and the British Government in particular are seeking ways of expressing disapproval of Russian involvement in Afghanistan, it is not the British Government's support of the establishment of a branch of ICI in Moscow announced today (February 28) a slap in the face to those athletes whom the same government is asking to sacrifice so much more in personal terms by boycotting the Moscow Olympics?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MAXWELL,
48 Carlisle Mansions,
Carlisle Place, SW1,
February 28.

A new hallmark for silver

From Dr Basil Bard

Sir, During 1979 the price of silver increased five-fold from 53 to 515 pence. In consequence sterling silverware goods, based on a minimum legal content of 92½ per cent silver under the hallmarking laws, have become prohibitively expensive, and the production of silver articles in this country is in danger of extinction and of replacement entirely by silver "plated". The hallmarking law, originally designed to protect the consumer, threatens to prevent him from buying affordable silverware at all. Has not the time now come, therefore, to introduce for hallmarking purposes a new grade of silverware with a lower fine silver content?

Other European countries have established grades of 80 per cent or 83 per cent as suitable for silver tableware, and as low as 50 per cent for flat articles such as medals. Indeed, British coins to the sixpence to half-crown range were made in the 50 per cent grade until 1946. Legalization of such grades would do much to remove the viability of silverware as a modern product. The introduction of separate hallmarks would ensure continued consumer protection.

One should point out that the hallmarking of gold articles is allowed in four different grades covering a wide range from 12 to 9 carats, and consumer choice in fact dictates that 90 per cent of the gold articles hallmarkled in this country are in the lowest grade, 9 carat, which contains only 37½ per cent fine gold. Why should we not have a similar system for silver? The Department of Trade and the Assay Offices—permit the same degree of choice for silver articles? I am, Sir, your obedient servant.
BASIL BARD,
The Athenaeum,
Pall Mall SW1,
March 5.

Derelict land

From Professor Michael Chisholm

Sir, The present Government has taken steps to obtain information about derelict and unused land in our cities: in the case of Liverpool, over 1,000 acres can be so described. While such information, especially regarding ownership, is a necessary first step, a more fundamental issue remains to be tackled. We must ask the question: why is it worth the while of the owners to leave the land unused? The fundamental reason is that there is no cost attached to holding derelict or unused land.

Within the rating system which we currently have, it would be possible to impute a rate for urban land on the assumption that the land was in beneficial use, and levy that rate. To make this workable, the following provisions would be necessary.

For land owned by local authorities, the "rate" should be payable to the Exchequer and not to the local authority. Exemption to this rule may be necessary where active steps are being taken to bring the land into use: this could be organized through the procedure for granting planning permission, subject to some control that a local authority could not play havoc with the system by granting itself the relevant permission. Finally, where the owners cannot be traced, provision should be made for the land to come into the ownership of the local authority, after some due process of enquiry and publicity.

The blight and dereliction of unused land in our cities is a symptom that the land market is working very imperfectly, and to an extent that cannot possibly be justified by planning requirements. The suggestions which I offer are intended to bring about a realisation of the market's operation in the context of this specific problem. Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL CHISHOLM,
Head of Department of Geography,
University of Cambridge,
Downing Place,
Cambridge.

Dissidents and psychiatry

From Mr Brian Wobell

Sir, You have today (February 21) published a letter from Professor Ralf Dahrendorf and others suggesting that the psychiatric treatment of a Soviet dissident, could well be a "near intended victim" of the KGB. They were quite right; he was arrested on February 12.

The KGB and the procurator's office are not distinguished records in handling the cases of dissidents who seek to publicise the use of psychiatry for political purposes. In the case of Alexander Podrabinek in 1978 the investigator violated 19 legal provisions of the chief of the Investigative Department violated three and the procurator, whose supervision of the case was neither proper nor adequate, violated 31. At the trial stage the Moscow Regional Court which heard the case apparently failed to take into account 34 articles of the Code of Criminal Procedure of the RSFSR and sentenced Mr Podrabinek to five years internal exile.

May I express the hope that the present political climate will not obscure one issue which at this stage can be seen in legal terms alone? It is straightforward: if Mr Bakhtin is to be brought to trial then the procedures applied should be in conformity with Soviet law. No political posture, whether pro-Soviet or anti-Soviet, bears any relevance to this. Yours faithfully,
BRIAN WOBELL,
1 Grays Inn Square, W.C1.

Confusing it

From Mr K. I. Hamon Watt

Sir, It seems ironic that having branded us as "Save It" the Central Electricity Generating Board may have to increase its prices because we have.

Does this mean that to reduce electricity bills we should use more "A Use It" campaign?

Yours sincerely,
IAN HAMON WATT,
30 Valiant House,
Vicarage Crescent,
Battersea, SW14.

VOTING THIS WAY AND THAT

Confidence in the Carter Administration's ability to handle complex international issues is hardly enhanced by the extraordinary announcement that the American vote for a Security Council resolution censuring Israel last Saturday was a mistake. The White House explanation is that there was a failure of communication within the State Department and that Mr Donald McHenry, the American representative, received instructions to vote for the resolution, when he should have been told to abstain. It is of course true that the negotiations in New York leading up to the vote were particularly complicated, and that it was a long and involved resolution: it is also true that there was some fierce fighting within the Administration about what the American attitude should be. But even so it is amazing that an official of a major country as a Security Council vote, with the ramifications it was bound to have in the Middle East, the American delegation should have got it wrong, and that it should then have taken two days to discover the fact.

Sex education

From the Chairman of The Responsible Society

Sir, The astonishing aspect of the article (February 22) by Mrs Barbara Davis, Chairman of the Family Planning Association, is that she appears to have no knowledge of the content of her association's sex education—and publications for boys and girls, or its attitude to marriage and to parents.

The truth of the matter is that all the FPA's persuasive publications for adolescents since the early 1970s share the same characteristics. None of them are directed towards presenting the young for marriage; indeed the word is seldom mentioned—but towards training youngsters to associate sex, not with love and family life, but with the mechanics of contraceptives. No information is given on contraceptive failure rates which are high in adolescents; the side-effects of the pill or abortion, and the hazards of premature sexual intercourse, none of which is the established line of which is the established line of which is the established line.

No information is given about the many personal health and social advantages of restraint from premature sex, apart from a somewhat derisive reference to chastity in one of their handbooks.

The development of a "positive morality" which Mrs Davis says the FPA is trying to evolve might begin from giving the young the truth: without the truth the young

have no basis for responsible choice. As for parents, Mrs Davis's comments cannot be taken at face value. The FPA and its sister organisation, the Brook Advisory Centres, have been the main forces in ensuring that parental duties have been undermined. Both organizations were instrumental in formulating Section G of the notorious 1974 DHSS memorandum which effectively removed parental responsibilities with regard to the provision of contraceptives and abortions to their children under the age of consent. As far back as 1972, the FPA's publication *Learning to Live with Sex* for 13-16 year olds and said to be widely used in schools, recommended places where children could go "where no one will tell your parents". In view of all this it is sheer humbug for Mrs Davis to say that the FPA supports the view "that parents have a right to know what their children are being taught". In a democratic society, parents should have the right to know when their children are in difficulties too.

Yours sincerely,
S. E. ELLISON, Chairman,
The Responsible Society,
28 Portland Place, W.1.

Private view of an artist

From Mr Roy Clapp

Sir, When I read your recent obituary of Graham Sutherland I looked out my old copy of *The Work*

Ask yourself if you can keep Rémy Martin
in the manner to which it is accustomed.



Rémy Martin. Fine Champagne Cognac.

Distilled only from grapes grown in Grande and Petite Champagne, Cognac's two finest crûs.

[illegible]

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Stock markets	
FT 100 456.1 down 7.4	
FT Cbbs 63.96 down 0.84	
Sterling	
\$2.2370 down 50 points	
Index 71.7 down 0.9	
Dollar	
Index 86.6 unchanged	
Gold	
\$375.5 unchanged	
Money	
3 month sterling 18 1/2	
3 month Euro \$17 1/8	
6 month Euro \$17 1/8	

IN BRIEF**Hogg pulls out of H. Clarkson takeover**

Hogg Robinson Group, the insurance broker with large Lloyd's interests, has dropped its plan to take over the insurance interests of H. Clarkson (Holdings).

In a joint announcement late yesterday the two groups said that they had been unable to determine a satisfactory basis for the merger and that talks had been terminated by mutual agreement.

H. Clarkson has recently become embroiled in legal action over the affairs of the stricken Swiss syndicate at Lloyd's. In its role as an underwriting agent the group introduced several members to the syndicate and has been accused of mismanaging the syndicate's affairs.

Along with Lloyd's, the syndicate managers and several other agencies, Clarkson is being named in an action by 25 syndicate members who are disputing their liabilities in respect of losses totalling more than £20m.

Tunnel hopes

Sir Peter Parker, British Rail chairman, said in Paris that provisional estimates had confirmed a rise of up to £100m in the cost of the Channel Tunnel project.

Although the project is a private finance and construction scheme, the government has been asked to provide a guarantee for the project.

The tunnel could be running by 1984.

Burnish loan switch

Burnish Oil is replacing a Bank of England guaranteed loan of £100m with a £60m unsecured loan from a syndicate of banks headed by Barclays.

The syndicate, together with one of the banks, was a member of the Burnish Oil group.

Taylor Woodrow deal

Teamwork Trinidad, a new associated company formed by Taylor Woodrow in Port of Spain, has won a £25m contract to upgrade eight miles of highway on the island.

Vickers payment

Vickers has been paid a further £3.5m by the Government on account of compensation for the nationalization of Vickers Shipbuilding Group. This brings the total payment to £11.5m. The group has now gone to arbitration. The total final payment to Vickers could be as high as £20m.

£20m low-cost loans

A £20m loan agreement signed by the Government with the European Investment Bank will offer seven-year low-interest loans to smaller manufacturing companies.

The cost of the projects between £34,000 and £5m can be covered by such loans.

Dow expansion

Dow Chemical Europe is to increase its capacity in polyethylene resins by 200,000 tonnes a year to more than 700,000 tonnes by the end of 1983.

Prime rates rise above 17pc as tighter Fed money policy bites

From Frank Vogel
Washington, March 4

Banks across the United States today increased their prime lending rate to 17 1/2 per cent from 16 1/2 per cent. Many banks have only set the 16 1/2 per cent rate last Friday.

The American authorities appear to have decided upon a tightening of both fiscal and monetary policies to reduce a record level of inflation.

The increase is the result of the Federal Reserve Board's decision to raise the discount rate to 12 per cent, indicating a tighter money supply stance.

Meanwhile, President Carter told Congressional leaders that he was determined to trim his budget plan so that the budget would be balanced for the fiscal year ending on October 1. This announcement means a cut in planned government spending of at least \$15,000m.

The Chase Manhattan Bank was the first to raise its prime rate, but scores of other banks in the East swiftly followed. By noon today, banks in the Midwest and on the West coast had set the 17 1/2 per cent rate, and bankers were expecting it to climb still higher. An 18 per cent prime rate seems probable before long.

The rise in interest rates has

been expected in financial markets. It has tended to strengthen the dollar in the currency markets, although few dealers see any long-term strength. The bond market remains depressed.

Share prices have fallen, but by not as much as might have been expected. Some major pension funds and bank trust departments continue, apparently, to view shares as cheap, and they tend to be supporting the market.

The cost of financing share purchases is soaring, an important cause of the soft trend of the market. Morgan Guaranty Trust announced today that it was raising its broker-loan rate from 16 1/2 to 17 per cent. This is the rate at which stockbrokers borrow funds, then being loaned to customers to support margin accounts. Brokers are lending to their customers at a premium of 1 to 2 per cent, and more, above the broker-loan rate.

On Wall Street it is the future course of money policy, rather than fiscal policy, that is widely being viewed as the key consideration in determining the future inflation rate. There remains little confidence that, in an election year, the White House and Congress will manage to push public spend-

ing on to an austere course.

Top administration officials have said the President has ruled out most forms of credit controls. The President repeatedly told Congressional leaders at a White House meeting that he opposed wage and price controls and would not seek even standby legislation from Congress for this. White House sources stated, however, that some stiffening of the current voluntary wage and price guidelines programme was being considered.

The administration continues to insist that its estimate of next year's deficit of \$15,800m is realistic, though the Congressional budget office suggests a deficit of \$25,000m. There appears to be some pressure on Mr Carter to go for cuts of at least \$20,000m.

The President also appears keen to make some cuts in the current year's budget. If only to underline his determination to fight inflation, though it is difficult to see how significant cuts can be made. Reports suggest that the fiscal year 1980 budget will be announced by the President with total \$4,000m.

As the Fed allows rates to rise and refrains from adding new funds to the market, so its 13 per cent discount rate

appears to be distinctly out of line, and increases in bank borrowing at the discount window seem probable. A boost in the discount rate to 14 per cent would merely reflect existing rate realities. A 2 per cent rate rise to 15 per cent, which would be unprecedented, would undoubtedly signal a tougher Fed policy.

Pressure on rates: In London, the upward pressure on short-term interest rates intensified, writes John Whitmore. Although further substantial assistance from the Bank of England to the discount market brought the overnight interbank rate down to 18 1/2 per cent late in the day, the one week and one month rates were firmer at 18 1/2 per cent.

The general feeling in money markets is that something will have to give before the end of the week. Either the Bank of England must take action to restore a lower and more normal relationship between various interest rates or else it must put the onus on the banks to raise their base rates and ride the political storm that would inevitably follow. Not surprisingly, further relief action by the Bank of England is considered more probable.

Way cleared for £113m Pilkington stake in German glassmakers

By Richard Allen
Pilkington Brothers has reached formal agreement on its plan to buy for £113m a 55 per cent stake in the German glassmaker, Flachglas, from the French combine BSN-Gervais Danone.

But the German cartel office has blocked part of Pilkington's original plan which would have led to the British group also acquiring BSN's Belgian and Dutch glassmaking interests.

Even so the acquisition will raise Pilkington's stake in European clear flat glass capacity from around 10 per cent to over 30 per cent and in safety glass from around 10 to 20 per cent.

A spokesman for Pilkington said last night that the cartel office had blocked the group's original £120m takeover package on competition grounds.

Flachglas itself holds over a third of the German market and BSN's Belgian and Dutch subsidiaries—Glaberbel SA and De Maas BV—are also major suppliers.

Under the new deal Pilkington will pay £85m in cash with the balance made up by an issue of shares equivalent to 7 per cent of the existing capital. BSN has undertaken to consult with the Pilkington board before disposing of this stake.

Glaverbel and De Maas will remain part of the BSN group. Last December Pilkington raised over £50m through a rights issue to help finance the deal.

Ironically the cartel office's decision on De Maas and Glaverbel could help to allay fears in the City that Pilkington was taking a huge gamble with its original £120m takeover plan. Glaverbel made losses of £9m in 1978 more than

wiping out BSN's profits from Flachglas.

Pre-tax profits from Flachglas corresponding to the 55 per cent stake Pilkington is acquiring were £8.2m and the British group says that this total was increased last year.

Net assets to be acquired under the deal represent approximately £50m, and Pilkington believes that under its own accounting policies, including revaluations, the goodwill element will be greatly reduced.

The deal remains conditional on statutory approvals and has yet to be cleared by shareholders of Pilkington and Mecanor, a Belgian subsidiary of BSN.

A circular to Pilkington's shareholders is to go out within the next few days and the group thinks the deal could be completed in two to three months time.

Tilling bids £19m for US group

By Peter Wainwright
Thomas Tilling, one of Britain's largest industrial holding groups, is trying to take over another American company less than three weeks after buying Glasco Electric of St Louis, Missouri, for \$10.75m (£4.65m).

The latest target is the group's "Silicon Valley" in California's "Silicon Valley". Xynetics is a private company tightly controlled by around 250 stockholders. Tilling is offering \$42.5m cash (£19m).

The group has been talking to Xynetics for five months and claims that the management supports it. However, the stockholders want the highest price, and in January, General Signal Corporation of Stamford, Connecticut announced a paper offer worth around \$40m.

Private United States companies are notoriously private but Xynetics is understood to have a profits record of less than 10 years. It apparently made net profits of around \$2.9m in the first nine months of 1979. Sales were \$29m.

According to Tilling, Xynetics is one of the few, possibly four, companies in the United States which specialize in micro-processors. Tilling wants the know-how and says that it does not intend to give up Xynetics without a struggle. The present management would be kept on.

Tilling already has a strong United States presence. It has so far brought 12 companies there at a cost of nearly £130m. The group is particularly interested in building up interests in electronics, electrical equipment, and oil supply. It also has plans to enlarge the medical equipment and environmental engineering activities.

The 1979 results (due later this month) are awaited with interest because Tilling should be reporting initial benefits from its United States acquisition programme, and savings of interest charges

Receiver appointed at British Cargo Airlines after rising losses

By Peter Wilson-Smith

British Cargo Airlines has gone into voluntary receivership after a period of rising losses and deteriorating liquidity. Yesterday the group asked National Westminster, its bankers, to appoint a receiver. Roy Hayward, the accountancy firm, has been called in.

The crisis comes just over a year after dealings in BCA's shares—or IAS Cargo Airlines as it was then called—began on the Stock Exchange's Unlisted Securities Market under L163 (2) (s).

Technically the shares cannot be suspended, but the Stock Exchange has now stopped receiving applications for dealings in the shares, which stand at 30p. This compares with a 1979-80 high of 157p and a price of 70p at which a slice of the ordinary shares were placed in January 1979.

The company was brought to the unlisted market by Energy Finance and General Trust by an issue of 6 per cent convertible redeemable preference shares of £1 at par to raise £1m and a placing of 16.2 per cent of the ordinary shares.

BCA made profits of £132m

pre-tax in the year to March 31, 1979, but after the acquisition of the loss-making Transmex Air Cargo from Cunard Steamship Co., the Trafalgar House subsidiary in 1979, a move which coincided with worsening trading conditions, the group has sunk into deficit.

In the six months to September 30 BCA made a pre-tax loss of £805,000 compared with £535,000 profit, and since then losses are believed to have been running at £300,000 a month.

BCA attributes its problems to the sharp rise in fuel and other costs, price cutting by competitors and the decline in world trade. Last November the company announced a stringent rationalisation programme involving redundancies and aircraft sales.

However, the measures have proved inadequate and faced with a cash crisis BCA decided that creditors and shareholders would be best served by "an orderly rundown of the company's affairs". The directors hope a reconstruction can be effected when assets have been sold off.

Sterling drops further as high interest rates spur the dollar

By Caroline Atkinson

The pound took another beating on the world's currency markets today as the dollar climbed higher on the back of record American interest rates. However, it recovered at the end of the day, closing only 1 cent down at \$2.237 in London.

Against a basket of currencies sterling fell by 0.8 points to 71.7 per cent of its 1971 base, showing a drop of more than 2 per cent since Friday. The Bank of England apparently did not try to hold up sterling's value yesterday against the rising dollar, although it may have smoothed its fall.

Britain's official reserves rose by \$229m in February to a record of \$23,935m (£10,523m), with an underlying increase of \$368m. The figures published yesterday showed a smaller underlying rise than many in the market had expected, and suggest that the Bank of England intervened less last month to hold down the pound than previously thought.

Although the pound fell more sharply against the dollar yesterday than did other major

currencies this was more a reflection of the huge intervention by other central banks to push up their currencies in value of greater market selling of sterling.

The Japanese central bank was thought to have spent nearly \$1,000m in the Far East to bolster the yen, and the West German federal bank sold an estimated \$250m to hold up the Deutsche mark against the dollar.

Some dealers reported that most of the selling had been in German marks. Swiss francs and yen, with the pound getting caught up in the backwash of the rush into dollars.

The Government has no official exchange rate policy but it is quite likely that there is some relief at this week's drop in sterling's rate. The sharp rise in the pound's value over the last year, and particularly since last autumn, is putting severe pressure on export industries.

Many manufacturers' profit margins and market shares are threatened by the huge drop in British price competitiveness over the last year to 18 months. This has come as inflation in

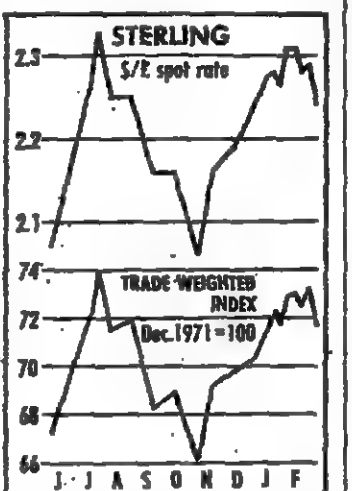
the United Kingdom has accelerated far ahead of that in most competitor countries while the pound has risen in value.

Although the Government has been working above industry's cash crisis, exacerbated by a strong pound, it would not welcome a sharp drop in the exchange rate because of the inflationary consequences of dearer imports.

This month's reserves, to be published at the beginning of April, will show a steep rise because of the substantial realisation of Britain's gold holdings. This could add between \$5,500m and \$6,000m to the reserves total.

The final payment of an Electricity Council loan, which has been promised by the end of the financial year, will take \$340m off the reserves in March 1980. The Government may repay other public sector debt. There were rumours in the City yesterday that the Government may announce a large programme of early debt repayment in the Budget in three weeks' time.

During February the pound rose by only a cent against the



dollar overall to \$2.273, although it was at a peak of \$2.3125 in the middle of the month. In trade-weighted terms it climbed by nearly 2 per cent, but this has been more than wiped out so far this month.

The authorities had taken a stable amount of money into the reserves in December and January despite the official pledge only to "smooth out" rate movements.

Speculators have now switched their attention to the dollar largely because of the increasingly attractive interest rates in New York.

Table, page 24

Setback at Unilever with profits slip to £605m

By Ronald Pullen

This worsening squeeze on company profits was again underlined yesterday when Unilever announced its first profits setback in five years, instead of the improvement expected in the City.

Pre-tax profits at the Anglo-Dutch edible fats, detergents and food-group slipped £4m to £605m despite a 4 per cent rise in sales to £10,250m. With the stock market hoping for profits of around £625m, and some disappointment with the modest dividend increase, the shares fell 5p to 438p having been as much as 18p down.

The group blamed the disappointing performance, pointing out that sterling had not appreciated by around 10 per cent during its financial year, which would have been about £635m.

At Europe, operating profits

were about the same as the year before with better results in frozen foods, detergents, chemicals and transport helping to offset a sharp drop in its edible fats business.

Sterling's strength has resulted in some loss of Unilever's market share in margarine and in Germany the group has had to cope with competition from cheap EEC butter.

Elsewhere the group's important IAC International had a difficult trading year, largely because of a sharp drop in business with Nigeria following the government's import restrictions and a generally flat economy there.

In the United States Unilever is continuing to have problems with its Lever operations which are losing market share to Lipton's tea business and the recent National Starch acquisition have both done well.

Financial Editor page 23

City apprehensive after Mr Mugabe's victory

By Michael Prest

After a bout of nerves early in the day which sent prices of Southern Rhodesian bonds and companies tumbling, the City yesterday steadied itself, taking the view that wholesale nationalisation and expropriation by the incoming Mugabe regime was unlikely.

Some companies with major interests in the future Zimbabwe, such as the Standard Chartered Bank, felt that such a clear outcome to the election was the best guarantee of future prices.

Prices of Rhodesian bonds, on all 12 which interest has been frozen since the UDI, fell sharply in the morning, but recovered later. The realization that a new government was still committed to negotiations on payment terms resulted in a stock advance in the late afternoon.

But the Council of Foreign Bondholders said that no date for talks had been fixed.

British companies with Southern Rhodesian interests also felt the weight of investors' doubts. Lombard fell 7p to 104p and Turner and Newall lost 6p to close at 125p. British companies are thought to be owed

about £58m in blocked profits and dividends.

Most companies were more optimistic than might be expected. Mr Paul Spicer, a director of Lombard which cultivates close relations with the African leaders, said: "We are not worried in the slightest. We welcome a decisive result."

Mr Spicer added: "I think Rhodesia will be a prosperous country and there won't be radical moves to carve up anyone." He pointed out that, like Kenya, Southern Rhodesia has a well developed infrastructure and administrative system.

Mr Monty Post, chief economic adviser to the Standard Chartered Bank, was a bit more guarded. "It would be pointless to expect a government of blameless Gladstonian liberalism," he said. But he shared the belief that Southern Rhodesia, with its key agricultural, mining and manufacturing position in southern Africa, was inherently prosperous, given political stability.

In some quarters, the more serious worry is foreign competition. Standard Chartered is probably relatively secure with its 46 per cent share of the commercial banking market.

Canadian gold sale

The Canadian Government sold 107,000 ounces of its gold holdings on the private market in February at an average price of \$580 (about £310) an ounce.

Trailers cutback

York Trailer is to stop making trailers at its plant in Northallerton, North Yorkshire. Almost 100 of the 450 workers will be made redundant.

PRICE CHANGES

Rises
Church & Co 5p to 195p
Fisher 1p to 29p
Gt Union Stores 7p to 410p
Howard March 25p to 65p
IU Int

Falls
Broken Hill 35p to 67p
Carrington Vty 15p unchanged
Gt Wm Tele 12p to 27p
Greenfield 50c to 88c
Hardwoods Cret 38p to 87p

Owing to a computer error two share prices in our Price Changes section yesterday were incorrect. Carrington Viyella shares only fell 1p to 15p in trading on Monday, but 4p to 11p as reported, and Midland Bank fell only 3p to 388p, not 23p to 338p as reported. This may have led to other price inaccuracies yesterday for which we apologise.

THE POUND

Rank	Bank	Rank	Bank
1	Bank of England	1	Bank of England
2	Bank of America	2	Bank of America
3	Bank of Canada	3	Bank of Canada
4	Bank of France	4	Bank of France
5	Bank of Germany	5	Bank of Germany
6	Bank of Italy	6	Bank of Italy
7	Bank of Japan	7	Bank of Japan
8	Bank of Netherlands	8	Bank of Netherlands
9	Bank of Norway	9	Bank of Norway
10	Bank of Portugal	10	Bank of Portugal
11	Bank of Spain	11	Bank of Spain
12	Bank of Sweden	12	Bank of Sweden
13	Bank of Switzerland	13	Bank of Switzerland
14	Bank of USA	14	Bank of USA
15	Bank of Yugoslavia	15	Bank of Yugoslavia

Statisticians get the measure of a tax evasion problem

New light on the 'black' economy

Britain's hidden economy of moonlighting and tax evasion could be both smaller and growing more slowly than most people suppose. New estimates produced by the Central Statistical Office deal a blow to the common picture of Britain's economy being taken over by freelance odd-job men concerned only to be paid in used £20 notes.

According to the CSO, it is likely that the hidden part of the economy, including "perks" and outright evasion, accounts for only a little more than 31 per cent of total national product.

The CSO takes care to stress that this figure is not totally comparable with the widely quoted estimate by Sir William Pite, former chairman of the Inland Revenue, that untaxed income could account for 71 per cent of gross domestic product. But it is clear that the statisticians believe the hidden

economy is much smaller than Sir William's figure implies. They also believe that the rate of growth of the "black" economy is not particularly rapid.

In trying to assess how much economic activity goes unrecorded, the CSO has taken a very wide-ranging definition. It includes not only the clearly illegal activities of those who get paid in cash and do not declare their incomes but also looks at "perks" such as expenses and the illicit use of facilities such as office phones for private calls.

The method used to estimate the size of the economy is based on two of the main measurements, which exist, of the total output of the economy, the so-called income and expenditure measurements. The income statistics, as their name suggests, are based on figures supplied to the Inland Revenue about people's incomes.

This figure, not surprisingly,

turns out to be consistently lower than that recorded by the expenditure measure, which relies on questionnaires about how much people spend. The assumption is that the expenditure measure is a more accurate guide to how much is produced and consumed because people have no incentive to lie when filling in the forms on which it is based.

The self-employed and people moonlighting are thought to be the most important part of the hidden economy, although payments in kind also play a role. Despite endless anecdotes to the contrary, the CSO concludes that growth in these sectors has probably been unremarkable over the past 20 years.

They particularly dismiss the suggestion that increasing use of barter has a face value of £10 or £20 is caused by their use in the "black" economy.

David Blake

This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

QUIMIGAL

QUIMICA DE PORTUGAL

US\$ 25,000,000
Ten-Year Loan

Fertilizer Modernisation Project
co-financed by
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
and
European Investment Bank

Managed and Provided by
Kredietbank S.A. Luxembourg
Algemene Bank Nederland N.V.
Banco Totta & Acores, London Branch
Crédit Agricole
Lloyds Bank International Limited
The Sumitomo Bank, Limited

Agent
Kredietbank S.A. Luxembourg

January 1980



Alfa union accepts pact with Datsun

The Italian metalworkers' union has said in a meeting with Signor Ettore Massaccesi, chairman of Alfa Romeo, that it will not in principle oppose an agreement being negotiated between the state-owned car company and Nissan of Japan, makers of Datsun cars. The agreement has yet to be approved by the government. A statement by the union said it would have preferred an agreement with Fiat if it had offered an equivalent deal, and it still hoped to see cooperation between Alfa Romeo and Fiat in components, research and planning.

TV imports plea

Japanese electrical companies are to urge the United States to abolish controls on colour television imports at a hearing opening in Washington today.

French energy deals

Algeria has doubled the price of natural gas it ships to France to \$6 per 1,000 cubic feet. Separately, Kuwait has agreed to sell oil directly to France's two state-owned oil companies.

Drilling to continue

France is still confident of finding oil off its Atlantic coast despite initial disappointment in drilling. M. Andre Girard, French industry minister, said there were "encouraging factors" which demanded further exploration.

Car collaboration

Saab of Sweden and Lancia of Italy are to expand sales and technical cooperation to include "a certain production collaboration" in future.

Dubai takeover

The Dubai government intends later this year to take over the remaining 20 per cent of foreign ownership in its aluminium smelter, held jointly by Alcan UK and the Southwire Corporation of the United States.

10pc Spanish jobless

Unemployment in Spain at the end of 1979 reached 1,334,200, or 10.14 per cent of the working population.

Capital increased

Iran Chemical Development Co (ICDC), the Japanese consortium for a \$3,000m petrochemical project in southern Iran, is to raise its capital to about yen 74,000m from yen 24,000m to make up a fund shortage.

Motor plant begun

General Motors has begun to build a car assembly plant at Figueruelas, west of Zaragoza, Spain. Production is expected to begin in 1982.

National plan possible after rejection of Community-wide scheme

Doubts over scrap-and-build ships

Attempts to breathe new life into flagging plans for establishing a scrap-and-build scheme to help Europe's overstarved shipyards and reduce the world's surplus tonnage will be made at a meeting in Brussels later this month.

Leaders of the International Maritime Industries Forum (IMIF) are to discuss the latest developments with Viscount Etienne Davignon, industry commissioner. Plans for a Community-wide scheme have been rejected and the only hope left is for the Commission to approve a series of national scrap-and-build schemes under which two million tonnes of old ships would be scrapped with one million tonnes being built annually over the next three years, helped by subsidies.

One possibility now being canvassed in Whitehall by IMIF leaders is that existing ship finance schemes, particularly those Government's intervention fund, may be used to finance a British scrap-and-build scheme.

The Government has supported the concept provided that it can be operated cost-effectively. IMIF leaders yesterday reaffirmed their belief that the main attraction of the scheme as an anti-cyclical measure remained, despite the considerable world tonnage surplus which still exists.

Mr Jim Davis, secretary of the IMIF and Mr Ronald Ilian, chairman, yesterday stressed that the forum thought a scrap-and-build scheme was the only way in which a useful contribution could be made towards speeding a greater balance between supply and demand in shipping. Improved demand for merchant ships is seen beyond 1985, but the bankers, ship-



Mr Jim Davis (left) and Mr Ronald Ilian: scrap-and-build the only way to balance shipping supply and demand.

owners, shipbuilders and oil companies who make up the forum believe that shipbuilding capacity has to be maintained to meet that expected demand.

But prospects of securing an agreement even for national schemes are far from bright. The Community-wide concept was opposed by West Germany and Denmark and, while Viscount Davignon has shown a positive attitude towards the idea, the Commission's competition directorate is much less enamoured.

Commission policy on shipbuilding is governed by the fourth directive which calls for a progressive reduction in state aids for shipbuilding. Any attempt to create a scrap-and-build scheme would require a directive of its own. The IMF, however, will argue that in the longer term a scrap-and-build scheme could play

an important contributory role towards the elimination of at least harmonization of existing subsidy schemes.

The IMF is planning to undertake a detailed study of the likely demand for shipbuilding throughout this decade and beyond, and is also to examine the extent to which insurance companies and ship classification societies can help to eliminate the numbers of sub-standard ships being operated worldwide.

At its session yesterday, the IMF considered a detailed paper on the prospects for achieving a balance between supply and demand in the large oil tanker sector. Experts reckoned the earliest a balance can be expected is 1983-84, and it is much more likely in 1985 or possibly even later.

Peter Hill

CBI protest over 44pc leap in rates

By Clifford Webb Midlands Industrial Correspondent

The confederation of British industry yesterday protested to Wolverhampton Metropolitan Borough Council about a proposed 44 per cent increase in industrial rates, almost double the average increase for the Midlands region as a whole.

The CBI said that such a huge rise could mean even fewer jobs in an area already suffering from high unemployment.

Mr John Moore, managing director of Morlock Industries and chairman of the CBI's Wolverhampton and Walsall area, said: "It means that ratepayers will get stung twice. In the first place they will have to pay a giant 56 per cent rise in their domestic rate, which promises to be one of the biggest rises in the country."

"Second, the job prospects of those same ratepayers will be put in jeopardy because industry simply is not making the profits to finance such a wild rate rise. And when companies start to cut back it is jobs that are threatened."

He said it was incredible that at a time when both industry and local authorities were cutting back spending, Wolverhampton was planning to increase its staff.

The CBI has asked all its regional offices to monitor the present round of rate increases.

Mr David Wilson, president of Manchester Chamber of Commerce, said yesterday that the level of rates in some areas threatened plans to open new businesses and could persuade existing ones to move to lower rated areas.

Chrysler 'defaulting on \$160m Tokyo debt'

By Clifford Webb Midlands Industrial Correspondent

Tokyo, March 4.—Chrysler Corporation of the United States is refusing to repay \$160m in credit which seven Japanese banks have extended for its imports of cars from Japan's Mitsubishi Motors, according to banking sources here today.

They also said the American carmaker asked the Japanese banks to conclude a financing agreement free of interest for three years, a request which the banks have turned down.

The sources said the Japanese banks were insisting that Chrysler repay the credit first before making about new financing arrangements. "They promised to repay. The time is up. They are supposed to make the repayment now. We can't do business unless they do that first," one source said. Negotiations are continuing.

Japanese banks that had been

issuing letters of credit for Chrysler's imports of Mitsubishi cars halted credit last September because Chrysler's financial position deteriorated below a certain specified level.

Mitsubishi Motors is financing its own exports to Chrysler in February and March while the Japanese banks consider additional credit. When Mitsubishi announced the temporary financing arrangements in mid-February, about 13,000 vehicles were in various stages of delivery to the United States.

The sources said Chrysler had already sold the cars the Japanese banks had financed, and "there's no reason it can't make the payment". The Japanese banks involved are Mitsubishi Bank, the Industrial Bank of Japan, Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank, Tokyo-Mitsubishi Bank, and Bank of Tokyo.

more jobs. At this time the largest firms are conceding that growth in new jobs must come from the small firms sector. The organization said it was gathering information from employers who had suffered judgments by the tribunals which they regarded as being in serious disregard of the facts presented at hearings.

It would be trying to show the Prime Minister that the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) showed bias towards the unions in its operations and that its advice to employers was not in accord with the way in which industrial tribunals were conducted.

Register of electricians proposed

By Derek Harris

A registration system for both electrical and electrical installation contractors has been agreed in principle within the industry.

A draft parliamentary Bill on the subject is to be discussed in detail by the Electrical Contractors' Association (ECA), the Electrical, Electronic, and Telecommunications and Plumbing Union and other interested bodies including electricity boards.

Mr. Rowberry refers to "very substantial capital benefits" that a lender to a building society derives from so lending. Among other things, he states that an investment of £10,000 at 12½ per cent, left untouched for 25 years, will accumulate to more than £207,000. But, Sir, an interest rate of 12½ per cent will only obtain so long as inflation is running at its current rate—at least half as high again as 17½ per cent. It follows that Mr. Rowberry's capital, far from increasing, is decreasing at a rate of say 6 per cent per

annum for the whole 25 years. It would be most helpful if Mr. Rowberry could consult again the building society that advised him, and provide you, for publication, with their estimate of the value of £10,000 in 25 years' time after its worth has been diminished at a steady rate of 6 per cent per annum. If the information cannot be obtained this way, could you, Sir, obtain it from a reputable source so that your readers may read and learn the long-term value of investment at interest rates far below the current rate of inflation?

Yours faithfully, ARTHUR LONG, 20 Fleming Road, Woodstock, Oxford OX7 1NA.

There appears to be no intention to attempt to outlaw laid by an electrical installer by householders in their own homes as has been done in some countries abroad. There are believed to be well over 12,000 electricians or electrical contractors which advertise in the Yellow Pages. Some 2,300 of them belong to the ECA and are included in the 8,000 or so electricians or businesses vetted by the national inspection council set up by the ECA and the electricity board in 1974.

A joint industry board has on its books some 50,000 electricians and apprentices, with grading awarded according to their qualifications. But none of these nets catch all those involved in the industry. An advantage of the registration scheme proposed is that it should become easier for individual electricians to be accepted for work in countries which demand registration.

The proposal will require a private member's Bill because the Government has said it does not feel justified in introducing legislation on the subject.

Business appointments Sir Ronald Leach joins Standard Bank CI board

Sir Ronald Leach has been appointed to the board of Standard Chartered Bank (C.I.), a subsidiary of the Standard Bank Group. Sir Ronald has also been made a director of International Investment Trust.

Mr T. J. Tice has been appointed a director of British-American Tobacco Co.

Mr E. R. Nixon has been made a director of Royal Insurance Company.

Mr Gerrit E. Venema, executive vice-president, has been appointed head of Wells Fargo Bank's Europe/Africa/Middle East division based in London. He succeeds Mr E. Alan Holroyde who has returned to San Francisco to head world operations for the international and corporate banking groups.

Mr John David Harrison has been made a director of Hardy & Hannay and remains company secretary.

Mr John Webster becomes group financial director of Penfold Books.

Mr John Russell Ellis has been appointed chief freight manager of British Rail Eastern Region, succeeding Mr Stanley E. Hobbs who has retired.

Mr Sydney B. Chapman has been made a non-executive director of Capital and Counties Property Company.

Mr E. H. Dunkley has joined the board of Delight Industries as group commercial director.

Dr R. Stewart joins the board of BICC as an executive director.

Mr P. T. Kerby has been appointed a director of Greig Foster and Greig Foster (London). Mr G. A. Clarkson, Mr W. S. Hill, Mr D. Macdonald, Mr M. F. Boella, Mr G. C. Sweet and Mr E. A. Holland have been appointed associate directors of Greig Foster.

Mr Anthony Stodart and Mr C. C. Savory have joined the board of F&C as non-executive directors.

Dr C. Rossi and Mr R. D. Kishin have joined the board of Guinness Peat Group.

Mr Roger H. Baldwin has been appointed by Newman Industries as acting chief executive.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unfounded fears of ITV 'ratings war'

From Mr Derek Bloom

Sir, On February 22 you were kind enough to publish a letter from me explaining that the IBA's controls over programme content and scheduling were so comprehensive that it was impossible for a "ratings war" to break out between the Fourth Television Channel and the existing ITV Channel. Hence, I suggested, competition in the sale of airtime could not be harmful, especially if those responsible for sales were not represented on the Fourth Channel's management board.

Mr Nicholas Baker MP replied that ITV was already engaged in a ratings war with the BBC. This implies either that the controls don't work and that the IBA is engaged in a foolish pretence or that they do or contrives at their evasion. Which does he have in mind?

Sir Brian Young, Director of the IBA, is aiming for a 10 per cent to 15 per cent share of the total television audience watching Channel Four on average and 60 per cent for the two commercial channels combined.

That seems both realistic and desirable to me, and certainly far from threatening a ratings war, which would imply a 30 per cent share for the new channel.

I am puzzled by the statement "standards will fall as they have in the past". By what criteria does Mr Baker assert that standards have fallen, and compared to when? Is he harping back to the days when ITV had 70 per cent of the audience

or to 1953 before ITV existed? Ultimately Mr Baker's "case" amounts to mere assertion, which many will find unconvincing. The same applies to the gentleman who drew on his personal experience of American television as seen when twiddling the knobs in his hotel bedroom. Setting aside the possibility that an American visitor here might be equally depressed by our service in similar circumstances (American television is meant for work, not a persuasive argument, and it is quite a good idea to plan your viewing rather than taking pot luck), there are differences which make the comparison irrelevant.

1. In America, advertisers control much of the programming. Here they don't.

2. We have an IBA; they do not. The FCC is specially prohibited from directing broadcasters in the selection and scheduling of programmes (Communications Act 1934).

Consequently, large claims based on the alleged horrors of television on the other side of the Atlantic are disingenuous and wholly misleading. I hope they will stop, but fear that they won't. A persuasive argument, however invalid, will generally be preferred to the truth.

DEREK BLOOM, Chairman, Fourth Channel Working Party, Incorporated Society of British Advertisers, 33 Old Bond Street, London W1X 4AP, February 28.

Designing for success

From Mr Zachary Brierley

Sir, The letter from Mr Keith Grant, Director of the Design Council (February 19), under the heading "Complex challenge of design", highlighted the basic reasons why Britain's share of world trade has continued to decline.

As the chairman of a machine tool company which depends on overseas trade for three-quarters of its turnover, I can confirm from first hand experience that success is only achieved if products are competitive not simply in price, but also in performance. If a product is to sell to its full potential, good design is absolutely essential. The benefits which customers have a right to expect, simply cannot nowadays be provided, if the design standards are low. Gone are the days of amateurish effort.

Until more and more companies begin to promote their sales far more seriously in export markets, exposing their products to comparison with the very best of competition wherever it is found in the world, they simply will not be aware, until it is too late, of the rapid technical and design improvements taking place outside these shores. Those which do so, however, cannot fail to respond to the spur which this kind of exposure gives to their design capability. When costs are cut and prices come under pressure, as is now the case in overseas markets, often the only way to remain competitive is by rethinking the basic design.

Mr Grant also emphasised the need to stimulate the development of new products. Much of my industrial experience has been gained in Wales, where this is certainly true, and where there has been far too much dependence upon traditional industries such as steel and coal. When basic industries are threatened by the harsh realities of an ailing economic performance, so too are the large number of sub-contract suppliers who rely upon those industries for work.

We have many of these companies in Wales, and I believe some of them, by developing their own products, could find alternative outlets for their particular skills. However, the important thing is to make sure that any such product is properly designed.

ZACHARY BRIERLEY, Chairman, Z. Brierley Limited, Ferry Farm Road, Llandudno Junction, North Wales, LL31 9SF, February 25.

Long-term investments in building societies

From Mr Arthur Long

Sir, I read with alarm the letter from Mr Gilbert Rowberry published in the business section of The Times of February 22.

Mr Rowberry refers to "very substantial capital benefits" that a lender to a building society derives from so lending. Among other things, he states that an investment of £10,000 at 12½ per cent, left untouched for 25 years, will accumulate to more than £207,000. But, Sir, an interest rate of 12½ per cent will only obtain so long as inflation is running at its current rate—at least half as high again as 17½ per cent. It follows that Mr Rowberry's capital, far from increasing, is decreasing at a rate of say 6 per cent per

annum for the whole 25 years. It would be most helpful if Mr Rowberry could consult again the building society that advised him, and provide you, for publication, with their estimate of the value of £10,000 in 25 years' time after its worth has been diminished at a steady rate of 6 per cent per annum. If the information cannot be obtained this way, could you, Sir, obtain it from a reputable source so that your readers may read and learn the long-term value of investment at interest rates far below the current rate of inflation?

Yours faithfully, ARTHUR LONG, 20 Fleming Road, Woodstock, Oxford OX7 1NA.

Who buys a foreign razor blade?

From Mr Peter W. Wood

Sir, Mr H. G. Bearson (February 26) asks "Who buys a foreign razor blade?" To this I must answer that I do—as indeed do many of my fellow citizens. This pattern of purchase is not due to any preference for exotic foreign razor blades but reflects an evident supply-side constraint.

Some time ago I purchased a Wilkinson razor which operates on a two-blade cartridge system. Since that initial purchase I have found great difficulty in obtaining Wilkinson blades for the razor. The blades sold by Messrs Gillette are equally

suitable but they price at the top of the packet reveals that these blades are manufactured in West Germany. Seized with patriotic desperation I turn to the bastion of British enterprise, Boots. However, Boots' "own brand" blades are also manufactured in West Germany.

Of course I am aware that Wilkinson's have developed a more sophisticated razor—perhaps their resources have been poured into this new, high value-added product. Again a search reveals shops well stocked with the equivalent (American-manufactured) Gillette product.

Now, Britain will not stand or

fall by razor blade manufacture but I suggest that this little tale has a moral. A consumer, pleased with and willing to buy a British product, is simply unable to obtain that product. Supply, not demand, is the problem. Mr Bearson hints at the desirability of import controls. If controls on razor blades were introduced, what then will I have to grow a beard?

PETER W. WOOD, University of Aberdeen, Department of Political Economy, Edward Wright Building, Dunbar Street, Old Aberdeen AB9 2TY.

TRUSTHOUSE FORTE LIMITED

Results

Year to 31st October 1979

	1979 £m	1978 £m	% Increase
Trading Receipts	721.0	613.8	17
Trading Profit	81.6	70.1	16
Profit before Taxation	68.2	55.5	23
Profit after Tax and minority interest	40.3	31.7	27
Earnings per share	20.0p	15.7p	27
Dividend per share	8p	5.32p	50
Dividend cover	2.5 times	3.0 times	

Record Trading Results again.

Profit before taxation increased by 23% to £68.2m.

Dividend increased by 50%.

£59m. Cash at year-end.

Earnings per share increased almost 6 times in past 5 years.

The strength of the balance sheet and liquid position places us in a very strong position to ensure that the Group's enviable profit record is maintained.

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To book at any of our hotels, ring our reservation offices, on 01-567 3444 or 061-969 6111 or see your travel agent, or ring the hotel direct.

Yours faithfully

TRUSTHOUSE FORTE

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Edinburgh American Assets Trust Limited

Net Asset Value per Share

1974 22.2p 1977 60.8p

1975 42.4p 1978 73.2p

1976 55.2p 1979 73.5p

Geographical Distribution of Assets

USA 51% Europe 8%

U.K. 27% Far East 5%

Canada 9%

Copies of the Report are available from:

Ivory & Sime Limited, Investment Managers, 1 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh EH2 4DZ.



Goode Durrant & Murray

Group Limited

Chairman Lionel Robinson reports on the results to 31st October 1979

■ Pre-tax profits up 69% to £1.519m

■ Dividend trebled to 15%.

■ Liquidity further increased.

■ Shareholders' funds up £.626m to £3.947m.

■ South African companies benefit from buoyant economy.

■ Record profits from New Zealand retail store.

■ UK housebuilding profits rise to £314m.

■ Continued progress anticipated in the future.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the registered office at: Durrant House, 8-13 Chiswell Street, London EC1Y 4UL.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Testing nerves in the money market

A full half-point increase in United States prime rates, to 17½ per cent, did nothing to improve sentiment in United Kingdom financial markets yesterday. Sterling appeared to be well off the bottom in New York late on, but gifts were friendless 75p or so lower on the day—and the money market situation remained desperately tight. Unless there is a very radical change in the situation in the next 48 hours, the Bank will have to consider extending its present ill-fated repurchase arrangement with the banks.

Meanwhile, the steadier tone of the dollar bond market in the past few days has not yet filtered through to the Swiss franc markets. Yesterday the latest SF 100m 10-year issue for the World Bank at 5½ per cent began trading, and immediately collapsed on an issue price of 99 to 92½—as steep a fall as Swiss bankers can ever recall in that usually sedate market, and the first real new issue flop of the year.

The issue had the bad luck to be caught in the middle of its subscription period by an unexpected discount rate increase. But the real problem is that the big investors have forsaken bonds for the money markets—six-month Swiss francs offer around 6 per cent—and foreign interest has dried up as a result of the franc's weakness. The market has been plunging without relief for about two weeks now.

Unilever

Profit setback

With fourth quarter pretax profits slipping 6 per cent to £135.7m, Unilever ended the year on a disappointing note with profits down £4m at £605.1m against market expectations that had centred on the £625m level. Coupled with the more modest increase in the dividend to 34.3p a share, gross for Limited as opposed to 35p for shareholders, because of the strength of sterling against the guilder, Unilever shares dipped 5p to 436p yesterday.

What seems to have upset calculations was the strength of sterling which probably cut the pretax figure by around £34m and bigger than anticipated extraordinary items. In the fourth quarter these amounted to £11.6m arising largely from rationalization and closures throughout the group.

As for the underlying trading picture, volume is warning that the 2½ per cent volume gain in the final quarter after a steady decline earlier in the year to only 1 per cent growth in the third quarter is not indicative of any real buoyancy in 1980 when consumer spending is expected to produce an even duller trading outlook than 1979.

Still the weakest product area is edible fats where tougher competition in Germany and the United Kingdom led to a material drop in its contribution while the Nigerian import restrictions were responsible for the sharp fall in associate company profits in the fourth quarter from £5.8m to £3.9m.

Unilever's liquid funds have been under pressure all year, which combined with higher interest rates pushed up interest charges £26m to £71m, but thanks to the switch to SSAF 15 on deferred tax, which under the equalization agreement with the Dutch end of the group was only possible after last year's Finance Act, the windfall £115m from tax deferred in the 1973-78 period has almost doubled retentions to £313m.

In the current year the usual cushioning Unilever enjoys against recession should mean roughly same again profits where the fully taxed p/s ratio of around 6 and a yield of 7.8 per cent do little justice to the group's record.

Grindlays

Nothing for the speculators

The market was expecting bad figures from Grindlays Holdings but hoping for some news about the unscrambling of the unwieldy shareholding structure of the group and that of its main subsidiary, Grindlays Bank. Lloyds Bank owns 41 per cent of Grindlays Holdings while the American Citibank owns 49 per cent of Grindlays Bank.

In the event the results were better than expected with profits down by £1m at

£37.1m as against some expectations of anything down to £32m. But the disappointing news is that nothing is about to happen about the shareholding imbroglio.

Anyway, bad debts are down from £5.8m to £1.6m, essentially due to the end of a contentious Argentinian loan undertaken nine years ago. But this is a once and for all benefit and it will be interesting to see how Grindlays manages to ride the recession this year.

In terms of capital resources compared to deposits, Grindlays still appears vastly over-gearred; its shareholders' funds now stand at £150m, just over 4 per cent of deposits compared to around twice that figure for the major clearing banks.

The most interesting aspect of the results is the absence of any indication about the shareholdings of Lloyds and Citibank. In addition to its shares, Citibank has a major say in the management of Grindlays Bank which is coming up for renewal later this year. Lloyds Bank had arranged the loan of £26m of subordinated loan stock five years ago and this too is coming up for renewal in December.

Because the present arrangement does none of the three parties any good and because of the renewals the market was buzzing with rumours that either Citibank or Lloyds would make a bid. To scotch the rumours Grindlays now says that the loans are being rolled over and that the management arrangements are yet to be discussed.

At the present price of 140p the shares anticipate a not too distant takeover. The yield is barely above 4 per cent and the p/e ratio 5.1, both about double of the ratings accorded to the major clearing banks, and without a bid the shares are overvalued.

Provident Financial

A gamble on interest rates

A purchase of Provident Financial's shares now is, first, a means of securing a healthy income—at 94p they yield 9.7 per cent; and second, a gamble on a decline in interest rates. Last year's performance—profits fell by 14 per cent to £9.22m pretax—was disappointing, though not as disappointing as the half-time figure (down by 35 per cent) suggested might be the case.

The reasons—relatively sluggish growth in demand (turnover rose by 17 per cent to £250m), higher collection costs, and a 70 per cent rise in interest charges—will not be remedied in the short-term; in fact Provident, which negotiated six-months money at a favourable rate last autumn, faces higher interest costs in the immediate future. However, the company has taken steps to counteract the increase by bumping up the rates charged on both its personal loans and vouchers, which between them account for the bulk of the consumer credit business; and consumer resistance appears to be an unknown emotion at this end of the market.

Meanwhile the performance of the peripheral activities is improving: the car insurance underwriter Halifax turned in £500,000 last year against £250,000 for the preceding 8½ months; Unicredit should go into the black this year; and the estate agency Whitegates is approaching break-even. So the dividend is not likely to be jeopardized this year, even if interest rates stay high. If they fall, the company will be in for a bonanza.

● **Burmah Oil** is busily shaking off the last vestiges of the 1974-75 crisis. Hence the replacement of an onerous Bank of England guaranteed loan of \$100m (although in fact a third of this was repaid in November) by a seven-year £60m unsecured facility from a syndicate headed by Barclays.

This is broken down as to £42m for the term and £18m as a revolving credit, and the terms are as good as any sound company could expect these days—three-quarters of a point over Libor rate.

This leaves only one hangover from the rescue in 1974—a £60m Bank of England standby facility of which £19m has so far been drawn down. The activity in arranging this debt rescheduling probably explains why the market thought Burmah was going to rescue a bid last week, and such disengagement may cause further short-term weakness in the shares, down 13p yesterday to 225p, in line with the sector and the market.

Has America caught the British disease?

New York
The United States administration is gearing itself to announce another economic "package" to try to slow the accelerating inflation rate. It will be the third such package. The November 1, 1978 programme was followed by Mr Paul Volcker's much heralded tight money measures at the beginning of last October. Yet, just as such packages came and went in the United Kingdom during the 1970s with little or no effect, the question must be raised whether the United States has fallen victim to the "British disease" of endemic inflation?

Hopes were high last October. Mr Volcker, the new chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, was an experienced professional central banker in contrast to his predecessor, Mr William Miller. Mr Volcker saw the dollar coming under pressure, dashed back from the meeting of the International Monetary Fund in Balgrange and shook the financial world with new stringent measures.

The discount rate was raised to 12 per cent, the new requirement was increased sharply and, most important, the Fed announced that it was going to concentrate on controlling bank reserves, bank credit and money supply as its immediate objective instead of focusing on the federal funds rate as a means of regulating money.

The effect on the money markets was fast and dramatic. Short-term interest rates rose two per cent in three weeks, the prime lending rate went from 13½ to 15½ per cent and long-term bond yields rose by more than one per cent. Above all, these measures frightened the markets and the banks.

In the past, the Fed had succeeded only in raising interest rates by concentrating on the Fed funds target but had done nothing to curb credit availability. Now credit was to be reduced but no one knew by how much, so banks anticipated the worst and began cutting back credit.

There was talk of a credit

"crunch" and Mr Volcker was hailed as a saviour who had the courage to take on the battle that the Administration had conspicuously failed to do.

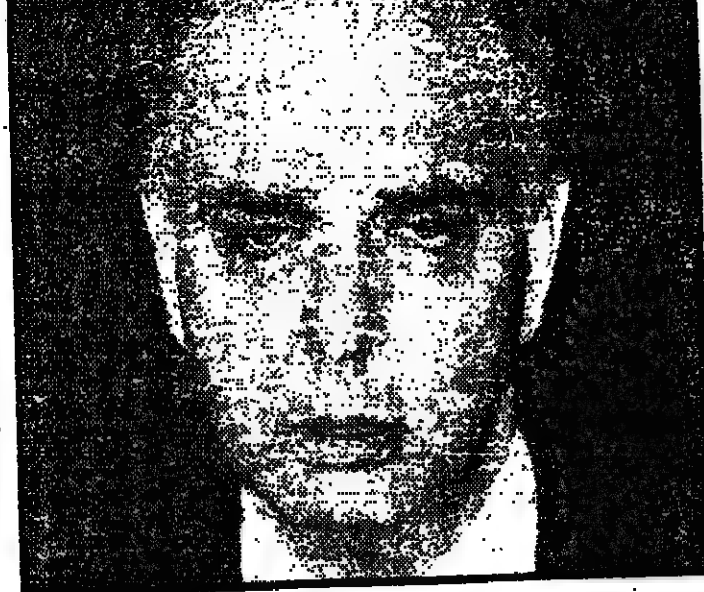
Expectations of a big recession became commonplace and the real fear in Federal Reserve circles was that they were raising a serious case of overdoing monetary tightness. But nothing happened. At that time consumer prices were rising at an annual rate of about 12 per cent. Now the latest prices show increases of more than 18 per cent. Talk of a recession has totally disappeared as consumers and producers shrug off the effects of higher interest rates. The savings ratio has fallen to an all-time low of 3 per cent and the "buy now" syndrome has become as American as apple pie.

Similarly, manufacturers have continued to spend quickly, passing on the costs of higher interest rates to the users of their products. Perhaps the most worrying feature to an outsider, was the speed with which the United States adjusted to a 15 per cent interest rate level as run of the mill and certainly not a crisis.

Within a few weeks after the October 6 announcement, interest rates fell. The three-month Certificate of Deposit rate rose to a peak of 14.5 per cent on November 7 but by mid-January was 13.35 per cent. Similarly, long-term government bond yields rose to 10.50 per cent before falling back to 9.80 per cent in early December.

Bank lending, after levelling off in October and November, picked up again in December and banks became aggressive lenders once more. Except for isolated segments of the money and capital markets (housing especially) it soon became business as usual—as though October 6 had occurred on another planet.

But the markets have brought the markets back to their senses with a real jolt. The combination of continued momentum in the economy, ex-



Mr Paul Volcker: hailed as a saviour.

pectations of higher government spending in general and defence spending in particular, rising oil prices and accelerating consumer prices destroyed any lingering hopes that inflation was under control.

The fact that the money supply (however defined, new or old style) was growing at an annual rate below 5 per cent was regarded by most practitioners as irrelevant. For any creditworthy borrower, money was in plentiful supply whether from banks in the United States, or from banks operating in the Eurodollar market.

The market perceived there was too much liquidity so the United States had the experience of high nominal interest rates alongside ready availability of funds.

As inflationary expectations changed, the bond market took it on the chin. Yields on long term (30-year) government securities have risen 3 per cent since December which means that prices have fallen to an unprecedented 20 points (\$20,000 per \$1m of bonds).

Now, 30-year government

securities are yielding 12.60 per cent, an increase of 3.3 per cent since last October, while short-term rates (3 month CD's) are 15.3 per cent, up 3.5 per cent.

Looking back, people expected too much of Mr Volcker. Time horizons have become so short that monetary policy is expected to work instantly which is a nonsense. But if policy is not seen to be working, then behaviour changes.

Inflationary expectations worsen inflationary momentum accelerates. Sad to say, but in these conditions it is difficult to conceive of any policy working. Yet the Federal Reserve can be taken to task fairly in one area.

There is no question that the markets and the banks suffer but allowed them to recover. In retrospect, credit should have been kept tighter including zero growth or even a cut in the money supply with interest rates raised even higher.

The fact is that technological changes in the financial system (interest paid on current accounts, money market funds) mean that the impact of any

given degree of tightness seems to be progressively weakened. In the view of at least some analysts, the existence of the vast Eurodollar market complicates monetary policy even more.

This leads to a second lesson. Monetary policy was left to tackle inflation against a background of a budget deficit which was far too large. The deficit for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1980 will be \$40,000m and despite the administration's January forecast of a \$16,000m deficit for the fiscal year 1981—already revised to more than \$20,000m by Washington—the most realistic private estimates are for a deficit of over \$40,000m again.

Moreover, with 1980 being an election year, no one believed that budgetary policy would be restrictive and there was even talk of tax cuts not long ago. The United States Administration constantly underestimated the inflationary psychology extant in the economy and overestimated the risks of a recession. It is only now scrambling to put together a programme. The other inflation blow has yet to fall. How long will wage increases be kept down to 9 per cent as in 1979?

A chance to slow inflation was missed last year and that makes the task more difficult in 1980. The question is whether any policy short of a massive change in inflationary psychology will work. But to change psychology one needs a 20 per cent prime lending rate, a major curtailment of credit availability and a similar cut in government expenditure.

Yet what government will take such risks (never mind an election year) when it can claim "gradual" easing in prices resulting from a "modest" reduction in economic growth?

Geoffrey Bell
The author is a director of Schroder Wess and senior adviser to Schroder (New York).

Contenders lining up again for the Channel tunnel

There is no doubt about it, the Channel tunnel is here again after a close season of five years.

British and French Railways have already thrown their hats into the ring with a proposal for a £650m single-tube rail-only tunnel, and more would-be promoters, whether of tunnels, or bridges, or bridge-tunnels combined, are joining them every month.

Mr Norman Fowler, Britain's transport minister, is thought to be merely in favour and is expected to make a statement in a fortnight. Mr James Burke, the EEC transport commissioner, also favours it as a nicely positive feather in his hat as he leaves the Brussels scene later this year.

As for the public, most people are probably pretty jaded by now after previous false starts. Some no doubt wonder what place an expensive circus like the tunnel has in a scheme of things where hospitals are being closed. Others still do not want to open Britain's front door wide to those damned foreigners.

The ferry companies, notably Mr Keith Wickenden's European Ferries which stands to lose most from the tunnel, have been remarkably quiet.

Amid all these imponderables one of the more substantial events of recent weeks has been the really quite powerful green light given by consultants Coopers and Lybrand to the EEC for any kind of channel link, but especially the single and twin rail tunnels.

Hedged about as it is with qualifications about future

growth rates in the European economy and the need for further research, their report predicts a real financial rate of return (after inflation that is) of 14 per cent on a single rail tunnel costing £500m (January 1979 prices), 15 per cent on a double tunnel—like the one squashed in 1974—costing £1,280m; 9 per cent on a two-lane dual carriageway bridge costing £2,430m; and 9 per cent on the same road bridge incorporating a rail link.

All these returns are on a high annual growth rate (3.5 per cent) and over a full 50-year life. For a low growth rate (2 per cent) to the year 2000 only, Coopers and Lybrand suggest an 11 per cent return on the single-track tunnel; 8 per cent on the twin-track; and —2 per cent on the road-rail bridge.

On a full cost-benefit basis—which tries to quantify more fully the benefits from an investment—Coopers and Lybrand suggest a yield of 16 per cent for both the single and twin rail tunnels assuming low growth, 7 per cent for the road bridge; and 9 per cent for the road-rail link. With high growth the rates would be 18, 19, 11 and 12 per cent respectively.

As one would expect, the longer the life and the higher the economic growth, the more attractive the bigger, costlier solution becomes. But the rail link is highly attractive now. Pension funds would fall over themselves to get in on the act, and there would be no need for the Government to chip in, either directly or through British Rail.

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Sinking shaft on French side for Channel tunnel in 1870s.

hops £200m to £300m depending on the EEC's contribution.

And the European Commission, prodded by an indignant Mrs Thatcher, is actually looking for ways to hand over cash to Britain, and could waive the conventional 20 per cent limit on transport infrastructure grants. The Commission's grants, without the disadvantages on planning and environmental grounds to which *The Times* drew attention earlier on the "submerged ferry" or twin-tunnel.

But if, as Cooper Lybrand suggest, the twin-tunnel is more attractive long-term, a compro-

mise would be to build a single tunnel with a bore big enough to take road traffic and be joined by a twin later if untold events justified it. This would add about £100m to the cost.

There seems to be a real danger, which has perhaps become endemic, that the Channel tunnel will once again run into the sand. That would be a pity, because it would be a good thing for Britain and for Europe, to be able to give crisp assent to something that on present evidence looks sound both politically and economically.

Michael Bailey

Business Diary: Cinderella Rockefeller? • Eaton's arm-twister

As George Bush campaigns for the Republican Party's nomination for its presidential candidate, he is having to brush aside too frequently for his comfort, accusations that he is part of a world conspiracy by the Rockefellers.

Seven years ago, David Rockefeller, chairman of the Chase Manhattan Bank, decided that it would be useful to bring together, now and again, intellectuals, politicians and business people from Europe, Japan and North America, to discuss the state of the world. He called the group the "Trilateral Commission" and his search for commissioners is what the latest conspiracy theory is all about.

In his hunt, Rockefeller decided he needed some southern United States blood. Hearing good things about the governor of Georgia, he sent his private plane down to Atlanta to collect Jimmy Carter to join the commission.

But Rockefeller kept just as close to the Nixon-Ford administration: Henry Kissinger became a special advisor to Chase; Alexander Haig, special aide to President Nixon has just joined Chase's board.

George Bush, a former ambassador to Peking and CIA chief was asked to become a Trilateralist, which he did in February 1977. But now his enemies choose to see him as just another of Rockefeller's boys. His rival John Connally has said: "The Republican Party will never nominate a man who belonged to the Trilateral Commission."



No, they have not landed: it's a sculpture made from excavated parts by Wilentz Pystel and commissioned by Anthony Bamford, chairman and managing director of the construction equipment manufacturers JCB. The piece is called "The Fossor" after the Latin for digger. It is 40 feet high, weighs 36 tons and stands on a 35-ton concrete base and 20-foot poles near the JCB factory at Rother, Staffordshire. Pystel, who was born in Poland, prefers to be called Wilentz, but this sculpture is so big that the work was done by JCB engineers. Normally, Pystel is a birds-and-beasts man: it was he who produced the 20-foot animal groupings in steel at New Palace Yard, Westminster for the Silver Jubilee.

Insurance companies, when you are paying the premiums are your greatest pals. It gets to be different somehow when you have got trouble and go round to collect.

Sounds familiar? Except, saying it yesterday was Mandell de Windt, chairman of Eaton Corporation, the United States trucks-to-electronics company which has 10 plants here.

You would think the insurance fraternity would be a bit respectful to such big boys but though it was last September that fire wrecked the Eaton transmission plant in Manchester, the company is still waiting for its money (the claim was around £35m).

Until negotiations end, possibly this month, Eaton cannot decide whether to rebuild in Manchester or somewhere else, possibly abroad (that is a broad hint to insurance companies to cough up—Ed).

Exporting from Britain will be tricky if sterling stays strong.

Exporting from Britain will be tricky if sterling stays strong.

● Fred Olsen Lines is shortly to announce a 13-day cruise; seminar aboard the MS Black Watch this September from London to Morocco, Madeira and the Canaries.

It is called The Businessman's Survival Kit and is meant to be a chance to discuss this and that away from "mutual problems". Unfortunately, the announcement which was to have been made aboard the ship has been put back two weeks because of "industrial action in London Docks". Mutual problems, indeed.



Mandell de Windt

says de Windt. "With the dollar as it is the United States is not a bad place to export from." Eaton's, he says, would prefer to rebuild at Manchester where nearly 1,000 people were employed.

● Paintmakers Blundell-Permgloze saw off their three-ton-up kids at yesterday's agm in London. These are non-executive directors: Charles Longstaff, Cecil Mell and Alan Rees-Repolds, who between them have over a century's service. There's been a Longstaff at rail since 1833 when a George of that name married a daughter of the original Blundell. Longstaff will muck about with his 3,000 pigs, Mell continue a five-year job making a model recreation engine, and Rees-Repolds' hobby, according to *Who's Who* is working for the tax gatherer.

● Bank employees who trusted that accepting so-so wages would ensure security of employment, are now thinking again. Lloyds, which recently announced a 48 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £276.6m, wants to retire or make redundant about 400 people in the trust and bullion van services.

"It really has been a shock to the system. People can't really believe that the bank wants to do this sort of thing," says John Hargreaves, an official of the Banking, Insurance and Finance Union.

Another Lloyds demand which is putting the wind up the union is that anybody taking redundancy may have to start paying full mortgage interest rates, as the preferential 5 per cent rate is tied to employment in the bank.

Hargreaves says that staff in some of the 14 threatened branches of the trust division want to take industrial action. The bank says that an 18-month study of the loss-making trust division, shows that much of the work can now be done in local branches.

Since one Big Four bank follows another in things like interest rate movements, could redundancies be on the way elsewhere?

What has the CBI been up to while the director-general, Sir John Methven, has been away in Australia? They have just sent us a letter addressed to a bloke who left *The Times* ages ago—and now works for the CBI. Wake up, CBI!

Ross Davies

Drayton Montagu

Drayton Montagu Portfolio Management Limited

The following companies managed by Drayton Montagu have recently published their Directors' Report and Accounts in respect of the year to 31st December 1979 which show:

DRAYTON PREMIER INVESTMENT TRUST LIMITED
Funds Employed £79.7m.
Proposed Dividend per Ordinary Share 8.8p, an increase of 18.9%

DRAYTON COMMERCIAL INVESTMENT COMPANY LIMITED
Funds Employed £49.2m.
Proposed Dividend per Ordinary Share 0.0p, an increase of 20.0%

THE COLONIAL SECURITIES TRUST COMPANY, LIMITED
Funds Employed £8.5m.
Proposed Dividend per Deferred Stock Unit 10.5p, an increase of 16.7%

DRAYTON FAR EASTERN TRUST LIMITED
Funds Employed £6.6m.
Proposed Dividend per Ordinary Share 1.125p, an increase of 9.8%

Drayton Montagu Portfolio Management Limited
117 Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1AL

Please send me a copy of the Directors' Report and Accounts of
☐ DRAYTON PREMIER INVESTMENT TRUST LIMITED
☐ DRAYTON COMMERCIAL INVESTMENT COMPANY LIMITED
☐ THE COLONIAL SECURITIES TRUST COMPANY, LIMITED
☐ DRAYTON FAR EASTERN TRUST LIMITED

Name _____ Company _____
Address _____

Link House Publications Limited

Interim Report

Unaudited Group Results

	July to December 1979	July to December 1978	July to June 1979 (Note 1)
Turnover	10,488	8,608	18,182
Trading Profit	1,918	1,360	2,914
Investment Income	220	166	269
Exceptional Expenditure	—	(16)	(154)
Profit before Taxation	2,138	1,510	3,029
Estimated Taxation (Note 2)	1,112	815	1,611
Profit after Taxation	1,026	695	1,418
Extraordinary Items (Note 3)	302	30	35
Amount available for Ordinary Shareholders	724	665	1,383
Earnings per Share	8.6p	5.8p	11.8p

Notes:
1. The Company acquired its publishing activities from Link House Holdings Limited ("Holdings") on December 29, 1978. It does not have, therefore, earlier figures for comparison. The figures included for the period six months to December, 1978 are those of "Holdings", and for the year to June 30, 1979 are a combination of results of "Holdings" and the Company. Comparative figures are the adjusted results as shown in the Accounts' Report in the Offer for Sale document issued in October, 1979, and are shown for information purposes only. The earnings per share have been calculated on the Company's share capital.

2. Corporation Tax has been provided for at 52% on the profit of £2,138,000.

3. Extraordinary items for the current year include £306,000 representing the cost of obtaining a listing of the Company's shares.

DIRECTORS' INTERIM STATEMENT

Pre-tax profits before extraordinary items for the half-year ended December 31, 1979 amounted to £2,138,000 compared with £1,510,000 for the corresponding period when the business was traded as Link House Holdings Limited. Trading profit increased from £1,360,000 to £1,918,000 and investment income from £166,000 to £220,000. Turnover at £10,488,000 was 22% higher.

The directors are pleased that your Company's first published results since its Stock Exchange listing in October, 1979 show a significant increase in profits. Trading in the third quarter is continuing satisfactorily in spite of adverse conditions in some areas and indications of a somewhat less buoyant advertising market.

The Board has declared today an interim dividend of 2.5p per share (4.0p with related tax credit), which will amount to £336,000. The interim dividend will be payable on April 17, 1980 to those shareholders on the register at close of business on March 20, 1980.

G. C. Burt, Chairman

THE PRESTIGE GROUP LIMITED

Mr. David Lawman reports on 1979

The following is an extract from the Statement by the Chairman, Mr. D. J. T. Lawman, which has been circulated with the Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1979.

Group sales for the year amounted to £62,250,044, an increase of 4.6%. Group net profit for the year before taxation was lower at £5,880,949 (1978 - £6,849,629). The total amount of profit available for ordinary shareholders was £3,709,623 (1978 - £3,689,981) after taking credit for an extraordinary item (sale of property).

Both sales and profit were affected in 1979 by the national road haulage strike, by industrial action in Lancashire and by the national engineering disputes. In addition, there was a deficit arising from changes in foreign exchange rates amounting to £308,689 compared to a surplus of £129,078 in 1978.

The Board is recommending a final ordinary dividend of 17.5% making a total of 27.5% (1978 - 24.9%).

1979 IN BRIEF	1979 £'000	1978 £'000
SALES	62,250	59,515
PROFIT BEFORE TAX	5,881	6,850
PROFIT AVAILABLE*	3,710	3,690
EARNINGS PER SHARE*	20.45p	20.36p

*After an extraordinary credit in 1979 of £278,000 equal to 1.53p per share (1978 - after an extraordinary debit of £34,000 equal to 0.16p per share).

Copies of the 1979 Accounts and the Chairman's Statement may be obtained from the Secretary, The Prestige Group Limited, Prestige House, 74-76, Holborn, London EC1N 6JH. The Annual General Meeting will be held in London on 20th March, 1980.

Prestige

Manufacturers of 'Prestige' 'Skyline', 'Ewbank', 'O-Cedar', & 'Old Hall' household products.

Overseas companies operating in Australia, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, Spain, Sweden.

Mr. A. K. Brown and Mr. D. J. White, Directors of

Cater Ryder & Company Limited

has been appointed Managing Director with effect from 1st May, 1980.

Mr. P. D. Northall-Laurie the company secretary retires on 1st May, and is succeeded by Mr. E. Kentish

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Interest rate fears hit equities

Fear of a further rise in interest rates and the subsequent increase in United States prime rates was enough to take the wind out of the market's sails yesterday.

Equities retreated on a broad front, accompanied by gluts where a severe shortage of money had been causing anxiety all week. The nervousness had begun following the previous night's setback on Wall Street, where rumours of another rise in the prime rate had pushed shares sharply lower.

Jobs had been anticipated the situation on the London market at the resumption of business and the market reacted sharply. The play succeeded, but also kept the buyers away.

Oils encountered a heavy bout of profit-taking as the sellers moved in to try and offset their losses elsewhere in the market. Other weak spots featured Rhodesian bonds and equities where the emergence of Marxist Mr. Robert Mugabe as the next leader of Zimbabwe sent a shock wave through the City. However, by the close, losses of around 1% in the bonds had been gradually offset by buyers at the lower levels.

Indeed, rumours spread that brokers were having difficulty in satisfying orders through a shortage of stock. In the event, Southern Rhodesia 4 1/2 per cent, 87-92, tumbled £3 to £85, followed by Southern Rhodesia 6 per cent, 78-84, £4 to £132 and Southern Rhodesia 2 1/2 per cent, 65-70, £3 to £120.

The news that Chase Manhattan lifted its prime rate by 1/2 per cent to 17 1/2 per cent on the resumption of trading on Wall St did little to help sentiment with the index falling 8.5. This further upset gluts which had drifted throughout the day, helped by the shortage of money and sporadic selling. Longs reported falls of about 1/2, while shorts also affected by the weakness of sterling extended falls of around a 1/2 to at least 1 1/2 in places.

Business in after hours was mostly quieter, although one or two buyers did appear looking for bargains at the cheaper levels. The FT Index showed a slight improvement, but was still 7.4 down on the day at 452.1.

Leading industrials remained in the doldrums after further disappointing figures among the latest blue chips to report. Unilever shed 5p to 438p, after 431p, following full-year profits at the lower end of the market's expectations while Fisons, which reported on Monday, fell 10p to 282p on

further reflection of the figures. Elsewhere, falls of 8p were noted in Glaxo at 246p and BAT at 238p, while ICI shed 6p to 390p, and Rowatt finished 4p lower at 177p.

Heavy falls were witnessed among oils, where the pressure to take profits and rub built up. However, by the close, most prices were off the bottom, aided by buyers coming in at the lower end of things. BP closed 10p off at 390p, closely followed by Shell, reporting tomorrow, 6p softer at 400p and Ultramar, 4p easier at 514p.

Among the second-liners, Burmah dipped 13p to 225p, 11-central 10p to 318p, Lamsco, 25p to 503p and Siebens, 44p down at 872p, after 834p. Among the more speculative issues, Viking tumbled 28p to 950p. The emergence of Mr. Mugabe as the outright winner of the Rhodesian elections resulted in nervousness among companies with interests in Rhodesia. Lonrho fell 7p to 104p with further setbacks noted in Rhodesian Corp 35p, Stocklake 4p to 78p, and Turner & Newall 6p to 125p. Rhodesian mines were also hit, with MTM Mangula 15p lighter at 110p, Wende 7p to 54p, Coronation Syndicate 15p to 370p, and Falcon Mines 45p to 610p.

The set back was not confined to just Rhodesian mines, but was extended to the majority of gold shares, particularly at the higher-priced end of the market. Anglo American Gold was 4p softer at 586, West Driefon

tain 52 to 580 and F. S. Geduld 54 to 562. At the cheaper end of the market, Middle Wits tumbled 13p to 480p, and UCI 54 to 513, while in "Aussies", Western Mining contracted 10p to 238p and MIM eased 13p to 265p. Consolidated Gold Fields

BSR shares eased by 1p to 35p ahead of annual figures due in a week. Two large lines went through the market yesterday, reportedly to foreign institutions. The shares recently shot up from 30p to 41p in little more than a fortnight, but profits were quickly taken despite bid rumours. Buyers count on video systems to assist an eventual recovery in record-changers.

As nervous ahead of today's interim announcement, dipping 12p to 521p, as RYZ had slipped 2p from the price at 438p.

On the takeover front, Maples lost 1p to 30p after the announcement earlier this week of an unconfirmed bid valued at 30p a share, while profit-taking clipped 10p from Cantors at 53p and 1p from Courts (Furnishers) at 92p. Henderson Kenton remained unchanged at 212p following its £14m agreed bid from Harris Queensway.

Arndt Shanks continued to recover from the recent announcement of Blue Circle's bid being referred to the Monopolies Commission, rising 2p to 80p.

Shares of J. E. Sanger were suspended at 20p following an official announcement from its bankers that it was negotiating with a third party for an injection of cash. Acquisition news clipped 3p from Thomas Tilling at 132p while nervousness ahead of today's figures knocked Kade International 4p to 226p.

Equity turnover on March 3 was £88,988m (15,973 barains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were Monigals, L. Meyer, Premier Cons., BP, Burmah, Charterhall, Shell, ICI and Allied Breweries.

Options

Traded options fell in line with a rather subdued market yesterday, with total contracts falling from 898 to 570. Shell again encountered some healthy interest, although the total number of contracts completed was well down on the previous night's level. Land Securities came back into the limelight, despite the latest fears over interest rates and attracted 271 contracts.

Traditional options, however, continued to be fairly active, although dealers described the business as "scrappy". Further "puts" were arranged in gold share

Cash injection talks as Sanger halts dealings

By Philip Robinson

Troubled meat trader J. E. Sanger called a halt to dealings in its shares yesterday amid speculation that Mr. James Sanger was about to stand down as chairman.

"I do not wish to comment on that. It is an area I don't really want to discuss and I would prefer to stick to our official statement."

That statement said in effect that talks are taking place which could lead to an injection of capital by an unnamed third party.

Earlier this year the meat group announced it could lose as much as £400,000 after the liquidation of small Smithfield meat firm Gilmore & Partners, which collapsed with debts estimated at £1.5m.

Sanger has been running in the red since 1978 although at the group's last annual meeting, Mr. Sanger said that reorganization and rationalization, an improvement to the way of profits seen in previous years was possible. Sanger's profits hit a peak of £1.5m in 1976.

Talks include the group's merchant butchers, Hamrobs, and principal bankers, the Midland. The third party could be the Geneva-based Gulf Group, which has an estimated 15 per cent stake in the group.

Mr. Sanger said: "These are delicate negotiations and I cannot say any more."

The shares were suspended 4p above their year's low at 20p. A further statement is expected before the end of the week.

Rentokil exceeds dealers' expectations

Timber preservation, pest control and damp proofing specialist Rentokil did better last year than dealers expected. Against the trend the shares hardened 1p to 122p, a new 1979-80 price. Profits rose from £10.56m to £13.02m, an increase of 23.3 per cent. The group's own forecast at half time was for around £2m. Sales went ahead 21.1 per cent to £73.2m.

Progress was faster at home than abroad. Pretax profits at home rose by 29 per cent to £9.24m; overseas they advanced

by only 11 per cent to £3.78m. The pound strengthened against the currencies in which the group operates abroad. Overseas profits rose by nearly 21 per cent at constant exchange rates.

It also seems that the May 1978 acquisition of Mighra National Exterminators of the United States is still failing to do much more than cover financing charges.

The shares are a narrow market. Sophus Berendsen of Denmark has 55 per cent of them. And at 122p the yield is £9.24m; overseas they advanced

Another record year reported by British Vita

By Our Financial Staff

British Vita, the Manchester-based rubber foam and textiles manufacturer, enjoyed another record year in 1979. Pre-tax profits rose to £8.93m from £6.83m. The final dividend is 3.71p gross.

But the company also said that the steel strike, combined with high interest rates and a downturn in consumer spending, meant that it had experienced a difficult start to the year.

Slightly less than half the profits increase came from acquisitions, on which the company has been spending fairly heavily in the last two years. Profits are more or less evenly divided between the United Kingdom and Europe and international.

went up from £443,000 to £1.08m, part of which was the cost of financing the acquisitions. But Mr. Robert McGee, Vita's chief executive, says the high cost of money will not deter the company from pursuing its expansion plans.

The results, which were slightly better than analysts expected, show that Vita has fully recovered from the roughly £300,000 Nigerian losses in 1978. Mr. McGee expects further overseas expansion.

Earnings per share were 32.2p, against 23.4p in 1978. While the company is guarded about the outcome for the current year, it hopes for continued growth from textiles, industrial products and fibres. Consumer products, mainly furniture, will not be so good, however.

Interest payments, however,

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Acquis Secs (F)	2.9(2.6)	0.39(0.51)	1.10(0.78)	6.22(0.22)	—	0.5(0.5)
British Vita (F)	73.3(49.9)	0.93(0.83)	32.2(23.4)	2.6(1.39)	6/5	5.0(2.23)
Diploma (I)	24.0(18.1)	3.0(2.5)	12.9(10.8)	2.5(1.3)	10/4	(2.14)
Glaxo (F)	37.1(28.1)	2.6(2.1)	26.8(3.1)	2.69(2.07)	—	3.75(3.0)
Int Invest Trst (F)	—	2.6(2.1)	4.32(3.20)	2.33(1.63)	5/5	5.43(4.28)
Invest Guaranty (F)	—	0.48* (0.35)*	—	5.5(5.2)	1/5	10.0(8.25)
Link Res Plastics (I)	10.4(8.6)	2.1(1.5)	8.6(5.8)	2.5(—)	17/4	—
Provident Fund (F)	250.0(214.0)	0.22(0.7)	15.5(13.8)	4.35(3.64)	20/3	6.45(5.4)
Rentokil (F)	73.0(60.4)	13.0(10.5)	7.29(6.31)	1.4(1.15)	8/5	2.25(1.87)
Unilever (F)	10,249.0(9,842.0)	605.1(608.4)	84.4(73.4)	15.1(14.0)	27/5	24.1(22.7)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. * = Net revenue. — = Correction.

Wardle share movement inquiry

By Philip Robinson

The Stock Exchange confirmed last night that it has been "making inquiries" into the share price movements of plastics group Bernard Wardle for nearly six weeks.

Last week an urgent investigation by the Department of Trade in Wardle's share dealings was requested by Mr. Dafydd Wigley, Plaid Cymru MP for Caernarfon, where Wardle intends to close its factory.

Wardle is on the receiving end of a 33p per share takeover bid from Mr. Graham Ferguson Lacey's newly formed company Ferguson Investments.

The inquiries are believed to have started just before that bid

when the Wardle price, dormant near its 12-month low at 25p, jumped to 27p just before the bid was announced and after the decision was taken on the closure of the Caernarfon group Everflex. The price then went to march Mr. Lacey's offer price.

The Exchange has written to Wigley asking him for any information that would assist the inquiries. A reply is likely to come today after he sees the Department of Trade following a House of Commons reply from Under Secretary for Trade Mr. Reginald Eyre saying that consideration is being given to whether an investigation is warranted.

Bernard Wardle's managing

director, Mr. John Sharpe, said: "We would welcome any inquiry into the dealings in our shares."

Meanwhile, a group of businessmen have written to Wardle asking whether it would be prepared to sell the Caernarfon factory as a going concern.

"We have had a letter from a solicitor, and we have replied, but I'm not prepared to talk about the contents of either letter," he said.

Mr. Wigley said: "I have been trying to get a meeting with Mr. Lacey to clarify some of the points in his formal offer document for Wardle, but he has refused to see me until after March 21, the closing date of his offer."

Briefly

SIMON ENGINEERING

Simon Engineering announces the acquisition, through its subsidiary Unichem International Inc., New Mexico, of the drilling fluids assets and business of Key Mud Company of Oklahoma for United States \$1.35m in cash, plus an earn-out arrangement related to profits over the next three years. To secure vital supplies of barite, Simon Engineering has, also, through Unichem International, purchased Guico International, a Nevada Corporation, for a cash payment of \$300,000. Guico specialises in the mining and processing of barite ore, a primary agent which provides weight to drilling fluids used in the deep drilling of oil and gas wells.

AQUIS SECURITIES

Income for 1979 up from £2.66m to £2.96m. Pretax profit fell from £20,000 to £384,000. Gross payment, 1.08 (1.05p).

TRUSTHOUSE FONTE

"TIF approaches the future with optimism", the chairman, Lord Thorneycroft, reports in his annual statement. The strength of the balance sheet and TIF's liquidity places it in a very strong position to ensure that the group's "enviable profit record" is maintained.

NEW CAPITAL ISSUES

Net new capital issues in the United Kingdom (excluding international issues) in February totalled a mere £0.2m. Gross issues were £91.5m, but outstanding capital of £91.3m was redeemed. The principal reason for the low net issue figure was net redemption of £91.3m by Commonwealth public authorities. Even so, net new issues by domestic borrowers were hardly buoyant.

HAWKER SIDDELEY

Agreement reached for transfer by Westinghouse Brake and Signal (subsidiary of Hawker Siddeley) of 50 per cent of capital of Bendix Westinghouse to Bendix Corp. On completion, Bendix Westinghouse will be wholly owned by Bendix. Consideration will be equivalent of £7.65m.

DIPLOMA LTD.

Turnover for half-year to December 31, £24.0m (1978 - £21.4m). Profits, £3.05m (£2.58m). Earnings per share, 12.9p (10.8p). Interim dividend, gross, raised from 2.14p to 3.57p.

THORN ELECTRICAL

Metal Industries (subsidiary of Thorn Electrical) reports turnover for half-year to September 30 up from £45.7m to £58.95m, but pretax profits down from £3.13m to £2.4m.

Glover and Malt (also subsidiary of Thorn) reports sales of £61.15m (against £61.39m) for six months to September 30. Pretax profits, £2.69m (£3.2m). For both companies, SSAP 15 adopted, comparisons restricted.

CARLTON REAL ESTATES
Carlton Real Estates have agreed to buy the 55-acre Lane Industrial Estate in Lancaster from Gilgate Properties for £750,000. Current rental income from the estate amounts to £118,000 per annum, derived from 38 units covering 11 acres.

Decision soon on Cook's cheques

By Derek Harris

Commercial Editor
Thomas Cook, the travel group subsidiary of Midland Bank, is still involved in protracted negotiations on the sale of its travellers' cheques operation to a consortium of European banks. But a decision is expected this month, with Cook's expected to take a minority stake.

Cook's is a "significant" shareholding, according to the annual report and accounts, out yesterday. But it appears that this is an issue still to be settled. Mr. Tom Fisher, Cook's chief executive, now on a verge of retirement, said it was not certain how Cook's direct benefits from the cheques operation would compare with its present involvement even from a consortium scheme which would probably lead to a dramatic boost of the cheques operation during at least the next three or four years.

Although Cook's claims greater growth than American Express in travellers' cheques in recent years, it is from a much smaller base—Cook's now has 7.8 per cent of the \$36,000m world-wide cheques market—and it needs much higher volume to offset the high fixed costs of a cheques operation.

Cook's has paid its first dividend to Midland Bank—£2m gross—after bringing in a pre-tax profit of £10.1m, up from 1978's £6.3m. Sales were up 27 per cent at £2,500m, with the main revenue contributions, in almost equal amounts, coming from a travel division and its banking activities.

Profits after tax at £4.8m were up 83 per cent on 1978 but Mr. Fisher said that while trading improved this year it was unlikely to see such a marked further improvement in profits.

UK RESERVES

The following are the figures for the United Kingdom's official reserves issued by the Treasury

End of Period	£m	£m	Change in month
1979			
Feb	16,617	8,213	359
March	17,454	8,446	837
April	21,467	8,446	4,013
May	21,532	10,392	1,956
June	22,498	10,163	2,335
July	23,498	10,400	2,998
Aug	23,306	10,337	194
Sept	22,498	10,337	354
Oct	22,417	10,615	278
Nov	22,417	10,199	91
Dec	22,719	10,211	302
1980			
Jan	23,706	10,456	987
Feb	23,825	10,523	229

Reserves revealed each and March

Grindlays Holdings Limited

The Board of Grindlays Holdings Limited have recommended a final dividend for the year ended 31st December, 1979 of 10.75 per cent net (1978 8.284 per cent).

Dividends	1979 per cent	1978 per cent
Interim	4.25	4.0
Final	proposed 10.75	8.284
Total	15.0	12.284
Equivalent to:	3.75p per share	3.07tp per share

The total dividend proposed for 1979 is an increase over 1978 of 22% compared to an increase in 1978 over 1977 of 11.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Preussag returns to dividends

Preussag AG, the West German mining and metals concern, has announced that it plans to pay a dividend for 1979 after two years without dividends.

The management also announced that it foresees a sharp rise in profits for the year, boosted both by the energy sector, said by the surge in prices for precious metals.

The firm last paid out a dividend in 1976 when a 7 per cent dividend was awarded, costing a total of DM22.05m.

International

Turnover rose by 19.8 per cent to DM3.53m and investment rose 10.9 per cent to DM187.9m during the same period.

Sharp rises in metals, went up nearly 42 per cent to a total turnover of DM122m, and in coal, up 29 per cent to a total of DM940.8m.

Investment focused on the transport sector where investments increased over 70 per cent to a total of DM51.9m, and the coal sector, up 19.8 per cent to DM61.1m.

Management said that external turnover on a consolidated basis posted a rise of 20.1 per cent to DM3.14m in 1979 and noted that this total incorporated a rise of 55 per cent for the metals sector which reached DM1.061bn for the year.

Citicorp—Indonesia

A credit facility totalling HK \$251m for Garuda Indonesian Airways, the national airline of the Republic of Indonesia, has been signed in Hongkong by an international syndicate of banks.

Citicorp International Group announced the facility on behalf of other lead managers including Bank of Montreal Asia, Dresdner—South East Asia, the Fuji Bank, Grindlays Asia, Société Générale and the Sumitomo Bank.

Garuda Indonesian Airways will use the proceeds to purchase four Boeing 747 aircraft and spare parts. The credit will have a term of 10 years starting with the delivery of the fourth aircraft, expected during 1980.

Belgian Fabrique Nationale arms group boosts profits

Fabrique Nationale Herstal SA, Belgium's largest arms manufacturing company with heavy investment in aircraft engines, has announced 1979 profits of 148m Belgium francs (about £2.1m) and has proposed a dividend of Fr 190 a share.

The figures compared with a net profit of Fr 141m for the 18-month period up to December 31, 1978, and a dividend of Fr 235 for the same period.

That constituted payment at the same time as the Fr 170 for the preceding 12-month period. In 1978, Fabrique Nationale changed its financial year from June 31 to December 31. Thus,

the latest dividend proposal represents a Fr 20 increase.

The firm's 1979 turnover totalled Fr 14.3bn compared with Fr 16.9bn for the earlier 18 months.

Although last year's results were clearly an improvement, they fell short of earlier predictions of Fr 200m in profits on sales of Fr 15bn.

Fabrique Nationale produces a wide range of weapons, including motors for the general dynamics fighter F-16, as well as sports equipment. Industry sources said sales in 1980 could reach Fr 18bn.

Record earnings for Fluor

Fluor Corporation, a conglomerate based in California, has reported net earnings for the first quarter ended January 31 of \$28.1m (about £12.3m), up 18 per cent compared with net earnings of \$23.6m for the same period last year.

Earnings per share, also a record, went up 24 per cent to \$1.17 a share for the quarter, compared with 94 cents for the same period last year.

Revenue for the first quarter of 1980 was \$1bn compared with \$764m for the previous year. New orders were \$1bn against \$1.2bn. The backlog was \$11.7bn compared with \$11.6bn at the end of the 1979 quarter.

Mr J. Robert Fluor, chairman, said: "The \$11.7bn backlog reported at the end of the first quarter does not reflect several contracts for new orders that are in the process of being finalized and which are expected to total over \$4bn."

All major subsidiaries increased their pre-tax earnings in the quarter over the same period last year, except for the mining and metals engineering and construction group, which was slightly down primarily due to a slower rate of new orders than anticipated.

"We expect 1980 to be another record year in earnings and revenues for the corporation," Mr Fluor said.

Colombia loan deal

Colombia has reached agreement on a \$350m (about £126.3m) ten-year loan at 4 per cent over the London interbank offered rate. Manufacturers Hanover Trust announced.

Proceeds will be used to finance investment projects outlined in the Colombian 1980 national budget, it said.

Co-managers include Bankamerica, the Bank of Nova Scotia, Banque Nationale de Paris, Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas, Chemical Bank International Group, First Chicago Panama SA, National Bank of Canada, Toronto-Dominion Bank, and Union Bank of Switzerland.

Link House up 41pc at half-time

By Our Financial Staff
Link House Publications, the Pools-based Publishing & Mergers group, which went public last autumn, reported a 41 per cent rise in half-time profit yesterday to £2.1m on a turnover of £10.5m.

Chairman Mr Gregory, said the results were achieved despite adverse conditions in some areas and indications that the advertising market is less than buoyant.

Industrial advertising spending, which recently made its way into Link's 24 glossy magazines, is now running lower than the first half which itself was down on the same period last

year. "But I would not take too pessimistic a view", Mr Gregory said.

It is understood, however, that the group would be disappointed if full year figures were much below £3.8m against £2.9m last time.

The half year to last December reflects an increase in both cover prices and advertising rates, although circulation of the 32 publications continues to strengthen.

The big profit earners are still the advertising periodicals, where Exchange & Mart is the flagship, which continues to contribute about 78 per cent of group profits.

The pre-tax figure is boosted by a 32 per cent rise in investment income to £220,000, the interest on the group's estimated £3m cash on deposit.

Link uses about 13 printers for its colour magazines, and is currently awaiting results of the latest NGA wage round. If those are not concluded before May, no increased outside wage costs will be carried in the current year.

The cost of going public is carried in the first half at £302,000 below the line giving an earnings per share of 8.6p against 5.8p.

The first gross interim dividend is 4p.



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River and Mercantile Trust Limited

Salient Points from Report and Accounts to 31st December, 1979

	1979	1978	Increase %
Gross Revenue	£2,923,336	£2,352,750	24.25
Earnings per Share (net)	13.73p	10.38p	32.27
Dividend per Share (net) including Special Dividend of 0.86p net per share	12.86p	9.5p	35.37
Valuation of Investments	£31,496,123	£31,486,859	—
Net Asset Value	240.87p	226.45p	6.36

The results reflect the Company's continuing policy of increasing earnings and dividends. Further emphasis will be placed on investment overseas without jeopardising this policy.

Copies of the Report may be obtained from River and Mercantile Management Services Ltd., 44 Bloomsbury Square, London WC2A 2BA.

Unilever in 1979

The Directors of Unilever announce the Companies' provisional results for the fourth quarter and for the year 1979, and their ordinary dividend proposals. The results are subject to completion of the consolidated accounts and audit.

Exchange Rates

As has been our practice throughout the year the results for the fourth quarter and the comparative figures for 1978 have been calculated at comparable rates of exchange being based on £1 = Fl. 3.99 = U.S. \$2.03, which were the closing rates for 1978. Profit attributable to ordinary capital for the fourth quarter 1979 has also been recalculated at the closing rates for 1979 being based on £1 = Fl. 4.22 = U.S. \$2.22 which will be used for the Annual Accounts 1979.

The results and earnings per share for the full year 1979 have been calculated at the closing rates for 1979. The 1978 figures for the full year are based on the closing rates for 1978. The trends are therefore influenced by the changes in exchange rates during the year. For

comparison purposes the trends have also been shown based on comparable rates of exchange.

U.K. Stock Relief

Under the UK Finance (No. 2) Act 1979, enacted during the year, stock relief obtained in respect of the years 1973 and 1974 (£38m.) is no longer subject to clawback and the relief received in subsequent years (1975 to 1978 £77m.) will also become permanent if it is still outstanding at the end of a rolling six year period. We believe that clawback of stock relief for 1975 to 1978 is unlikely. We have therefore released the deferred taxation previously provided for stock relief in 1973 to 1978 (£115m.) as an extraordinary item. Stock relief in respect of 1979, which is not expected to be subject to clawback, reduces the fourth quarter and year's tax charge by £20m.

UNILEVER COMBINED RESULTS (£ millions)

Fourth Quarter 1979	Fourth Quarter 1978	Increase/Decrease %	Full Year 1979	Full Year 1978	Increase/Decrease Closing Rates %	Comparable Rates %
2,923	2,585		10,249	9,842		
1,116	1,040		4,058	4,004		
1,808	1,545		6,191	5,838		
153.7	150.9	2%	605.4	600.8	1%	8%
(11.6)	(10.9)		(1.0)	(12.5)		
8.8	13.5		42.3	64.3		
0.7	2.4		2.3	3.5		
(15.9)	(11.5)		(43.9)	(46.7)		
(16.1)	(14.3)		(62.5)	(50.9)		
0.2	2.8		18.6	4.2		
135.7	144.4	(6)%	605.1	608.4	(1)%	5%
(40.7)	(67.8)		(253.7)	(276.9)		
(3.9)	(8.8)		(20.5)	(31.1)		
2.9	(2.8)		3.3	(4.4)		
0.3	(0.4)		2.0	(3.2)		
(3.6)	(3.6)		(22.8)	(21.0)		
(2.6)	(2.6)		(19.0)	(17.0)		
(1.0)	(1.0)		(3.8)	(4.0)		
50.7	63.0	44%	313.4	272.8	15%	21%
(4.8)						
85.9	63.0	36%	313.4	272.8	15%	21%
59.6	42.0		176.5	151.9		
26.3	21.0		136.9	120.9		
23.12p	16.96p	36%	84.37p	73.44p	15%	21%
			115.3	—		
			428.7	272.8		
			(115.9)	(106.1)		
			(41.0)	(35.5)		
			(74.9)	(70.6)		
			312.8	186.7		

Results

Fourth Quarter 1979

In this quarter total sales value was 13% higher than in the corresponding quarter of 1978, of which 2.4% arose from higher volume. Improvements in Europe total operating profit was lower than in 1978. Improvements in Sundry Foods and Drinks, Chemicals and Transport were more than offset by lower results in other groups, notably Edible Fats. Results in the United States in total showed an improvement.

UAC International's profits were still below those of 1978 but there are signs of a slow recovery.

Costs of reorganisations, mainly in the United Kingdom, are included in non-recurring items. Higher interest rates and a reduction in net liquid funds led to an increase in interest charges. Taxation was unusually low because of United Kingdom stock relief in respect of the whole year.

Full Year 1979

For the year as a whole, total sales value rose by 12% at comparable rates of exchange: the volume rise was some 3%.

In Europe total operating profit remained at about last year's level as better results in some product groups, notably Frozen Products, Sundry Foods and Drinks, Detergents, Chemicals and Transport, were offset by lower profits of the Edible Fats business and by lower export earnings from the United Kingdom.

In the United States profits were much higher than in 1978, mainly because National Starch has now been included for the full year. Lipton had a good year but Lever Brothers is still operating at a loss.

The other overseas countries on the whole performed satisfactorily but results were affected by adverse exchange rate movements. UAC International however had a disappointing year, with results below those of 1978 due to difficult trading conditions. This is reflected in the lower figure for concern share of profits of associated companies which are a significant part of UAC International results.

The strengthening of sterling reduced results expressed in this currency calculated at closing rates.

Dividends

The Boards today resolved to recommend to the Annual General Meetings to be held on 14th May, 1980, the declaration of final dividends in respect of 1979 on the Ordinary capitals at the following rates, which are equivalent in value at today's rate of exchange in terms of the Equalisation Agreement between the two companies:

LIMITED

15.11p per original 25p Ordinary share (1978: 14.00p), bringing the total of LIMITED's dividend declarations for 1979 to 24.05p per share (1978: 22.67p).

N.V.

Fl. 6.32 per Fl. 20 Ordinary capital (1978: Fl. 5.40), bringing the total of N.V.'s dividend for 1979 to Fl. 9.88 per Fl. 20 Ordinary capital (1978: Fl. 8.80).

Together with the interim dividend declared in November 1979, the proposed final dividend will result in a total dividend for LIMITED for 1979 which is approximately 6% more than LIMITED's total dividend for 1978. The strengthening of sterling against the guilder in the context of the Equalisation Agreement is the cause of the greater percentage increase in N.V.'s total dividend.

The LIMITED final dividend will be paid on 27th May, 1980, to shareholders registered on 29th April, 1980.

The N.V. final dividend will be paid on 27th May, 1980.

Shareholders are reminded that for the purpose of equalising dividends under the Equalisation Agreement, ACT in respect of any dividend paid by LIMITED has to be treated as part of the dividend. If the effective rate of ACT applicable to payment of the final dividend is changed from the current rate of 3/7ths, the amount now announced will be adjusted accordingly and a further announcement made. LIMITED's total dividend declaration for 1978 of 22.67p is 0.75p higher than the previously published figure due to the reduction in the rate of ACT from 33/67ths to 3/7ths.

The Report and Accounts for 1979 will be published on 24th April, 1980.

4th March, 1980.

Unilever Quarterly Results are published in leaflet form. If you wish to be included in the mailing list for these leaflets please write to: Information Division, P.O. Box 68, Unilever House, London EC4P 4BQ.

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Bank Base Rates

**THE NEW THROGMORTON
TRUST LTD.**
Capital Loan Stock Valuation—
March 4th, 1930
The Net Asset Value per £1 of
Capital Loan Stock is 240.00p cal-
culated on Formula 1.
Securities valued at middle market
price

1924-25		Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P. E.
High	Low						
94	70	Airsprung Group	70	—	6.7	9.6	94
30	36	Armstrong & Rhodes	36	—	3.3	10.6	29
255	163	Bardon Hill	235	—	13.8	39	63
100	83	County Cars Pres	85	—	15.3	18.0	—
181	83	Debert Corp	92	—	5.0	5.2	101
99	88	Frank Horrell	99	—	19.0	28.0	—
129	100	Frederick Parker	108	—	12.8	11.3	47
156	102	George Blair	105	—	16.5	15.7	—
66	45	Jackson Group	86	—	5.2	7.9	73
153	113	James Burrough	116	—	7.2	6.2	101
232	173	Robert Jenkins	235	—	31.3	12.3	88
232	173	Tordani Ltd	215	—	14.3	6.6	54
34	16	Twinclock Ore	19	—	0.8	4.3	—
80	70	Twinclock 12% ULS	76	—	12.0	15.8	—
56	33	Unilock Holdings	50	—	2.6	5.2	104
85	42	Walter Alexander	85	—	4.4	5.1	54
290	136	W. S. Yeates	181	—	11.5	6.3	54

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

Sterling: Other Markets		Dollar Spot Rates	
Aden-100	100.00	Canada	1.056-1.070
Algeria-100	100.00	Ceylon-100	2.054-1.227
Angola-100	100.00	France-100	2.054-1.227
Argentina-100	100.00	Germany-100	2.054-1.227
Bombay-100	100.00	India-100	2.054-1.227
Buenos Aires-100	100.00	Italy-100	2.054-1.227
Calcutta-100	100.00	Japan-100	2.054-1.227
Canton-100	100.00	Kenya-100	2.054-1.227
Cebu-100	100.00	Madagascar-100	2.054-1.227
Colon-100	100.00	Malaya-100	2.054-1.227
Hankow-100	100.00	Mexico-100	2.054-1.227
Hong Kong-100	100.00	Nigeria-100	2.054-1.227
London-100	100.00	Peru-100	2.054-1.227
Lyons-100	100.00	Portugal-100	2.054-1.227
Manila-100	100.00	Spain-100	2.054-1.227
Medan-100	100.00	Switzerland-100	2.054-1.227
Shanghai-100	100.00	Taiwan-100	2.054-1.227
Singapore-100	100.00	Thailand-100	2.054-1.227
Sourabaya-100	100.00	Turkey-100	2.054-1.227
Tientsin-100	100.00	U.S.A.-100	2.054-1.227
Yokohama-100	100.00	Yugoslavia-100	2.054-1.227

[illegible][illegible]

